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EASTERN

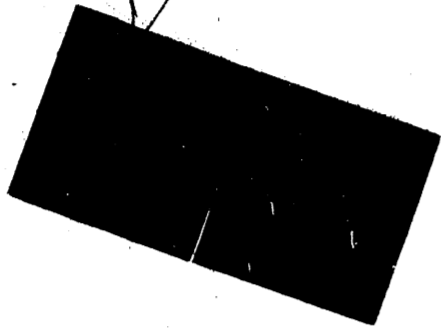
F.O.
371

1947

PALESTINE

FILE NO. 48

pp. 3219 - 3561



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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

CLOSED
UNTIL
1978

61805

92 1947

Palestine

EASTERN

E3219/G 2

15 APR 1947

E 3219/48/G

Seeger immigration

Sir C. Notton
Athens
835

Refs to F.O. 60 (E2644/48/G)
Reports that Greek H.F.A. have
given their usual promise
to help.

Dated 15 April
Received 17 April

Last Paper.

E3193 (E3147)

(Minutes.)

References.

Copy CO
MIS
Adm. } usual names

15 Apr. 18

(Print.)

61805

(How disposed of.)

3) CO
MIS
Adm. ✓ (19 April)

(Action completed.)

27/9/4

(Index.)

W.H.

Next Paper.

(E3349)
E3306

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17 APR 1947

E

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL No.2.

FROM ATHENS TO FOREIGN OFFICE .

Sir C. Norton.
No.855.

D. 4.38 p.m. 16th April,1947.

15th April,1947.

R. 7.55 p.m. 16th April,1947.

8 8 8 8 8 8

IMPORTANT

SECRET

E/g of Policy

Your telegram No.725. Illegal immigration traffic.

Greek reply to note in my despatch No.148 is simply the usual promise to do all in their power to help.

2. No (repeat no) reference is made to specific request for cancellation of registration of the three vessels named in your telegram under reference. We are returning to the charge.

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Reference: **FO**
371 / **61805**

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E 2644/48/G

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ATHENS

No. 725

D. 5.15 p.m. 29th March, 1947

29th March, 1947

u u u u u

IMPORTANT

SECRET

My telegram No. 606 [of March 15th: Jewish illegal immigration].

Following three ships reported to be under Greek flag are strongly suspected of being involved in the illegal immigrant traffic:-

"Agias Trias" reported to have met three caiques at Amorgas or Levitha in January.

"Archangelos", ready to sail shortly from Marseilles. Owners Spyridon Typaldos: D'Andria is negotiating to purchase. Marseilles agents Ginesta and Company.

"Vasilakis" based on Piraeus. Owners Nicholas George Mayris and Samuel Minionis: purchased in 1945 for the D'Andria group.

2. Please request the Greek authorities to cancel the registration of these vessels, whose owners are abusing the Greek flag in order to further this illegal traffic. You should press for very early reply and report result by telegram.

3. Greek authorities will doubtless have information about D'Andria, who is one of the principal organisers of shipping for the illegal immigrant traffic. Nationality Italian, christian name Stefano, born Smyrna January 24th 1897.

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E

E 3237

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1947

PALESTINE

18

Registry Number } E3237/48/31
 FROM } G. C. B. D. Odde.
 No. }
 Dated } Ordinaly
 Received in Registry } to M. Beck
 M.O. 59733/47
 15 April 1947

Illegal Immigration.
 Refers previous letter of April 1. (E 3068/48/9)
 State on consulting C.I.C. find that non-
 resale was not a condition of transfer of
 L.C.T.s to Italian Govt. Only condition
 was that they should not be exported from
 Italy. Only document Italian signed was
 a receipt note suggests to take up with Italian

Last Paper.

3219

(Minutes.)

this somewhat alters the case: but
 let us see what Rome say before
 writing to them again
 JB, Apr. 28

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

G. C. B. D. Odde

(Index.)

MB
9/4/48

Next Paper.

E 3247

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

3068/48/9

copy No. 1. *enter 6*



Admiralty,
S.W.1.

M059733/47.

E 3237

15 April, 1947.

Whitehall 9000.
Extension 808.

18

My dear Beith,

Would you please refer to my letter of the 1st April under this reference.

2. On consulting the Commander-in-Chief we find that non-resale was not a condition of the transfer of these L.C.T.s to the Italian Government. In fact the only condition was that they should not be exported from Italy.

3. The only document which the Italians signed was the normal receipt-note including:

- (a) Agreement "that the responsibility for safeguarding, moving and disposing of the material is that of the Italian Government", and
- (b) Recognition "that such material is accepted as the property of the Italian Government upon the condition that an agreed settlement between the British Government and the Italian Government shall be made at an agreed future date."

4. As you see this does not get us much further forward.

/5.

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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5. Nevertheless, we consider that the action of the Italian Government in allowing these craft, handed over for civil rehabilitation, to be used for illegal immigration is intolerable and we should be glad if you would take the matter up with the Italian Government.

Yours sincerely,

G. W. Dods

G CBD/PJF.

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E 3247
18 APR

8

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E3247/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Lord Inverchapel,
No. Washington.

Dated 2311

Received in Registry } 17 April 1947
18 April 1947

Illegal Immigrants in Italy.

Refers to F.O. tel. 3672 (E2716/48/31)
In view of Rome tel. 824 asks whether F.O.
still wishes them to take action as suggested
in tel. under ref. It is not thought that
any discussion in central committee of
UNRRA could have profitable result at this
stage.

Last Paper.

3237.

References.

E8133/7656/S.

(Minutes.)

Copy as ref & re submit.

L.P.L. Pyman
18/4

Draft copy

D.S. Smith
May 3

J.B. May 7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Mr. Higham, C.O.
Mr. Scherr, C.I.S.
Mr. Dodds, Admty.

✓ 19 April.

apt. Planning. W. Lon.

(2. ems.) May. 16
(Top Secret)

9) M. Seeley, U.K. Adm.
(Top Secret) New York
16 May

(Action completed.)

G. C. May 11

(Index.)

May 11/46

Next Paper.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61805

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E 3247/48/31

J.G.S.B.

Draft.

Top Secret.
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

Chancery,
Washington

E3534/48/31
2 letter under reply
in E2716 x
(From Eastern
Department)

has agree
Refugee Dept.
Mr Waker
first
JB May 3

E3522/48/4
Mr Schere will
provide a copy

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. ⁹

May 1947.

TOP SECRET

*Communication to the Director-General
of U.N.R.R.A. as previously
instructed*

Dear Chancery,

Your telegram No. 2311 of
April 17th about Jewish illegal immigration
into Palestine and the representations
recently made by the Italian Government
to U.N.R.R.A.

We enclose a copy of the Minister
of State's letter to Sir Humphrey Gale
on this subject and of ~~Sir Humphrey Gale's~~ *Mr Dudley Ward's*
reply. We do not ~~now~~ propose to pursue
this matter further with U.N.R.R.A. in
view of the fact that the organisation
is ~~already~~ *and we do not now require you to address a*
~~down~~ We are more concerned at present
to prevent the A.J.D.C. and other Jewish
bodies from securing the same special
position under I.R.O. as they held under
U.N.R.R.A.

As regards the final question
asked in your telegram, we send you
herewith a copy of the latest survey
of the illegal immigration situation
prepared by the intelligence authorities.

We/

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Reference:

FO

371

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M.R. 10

We hope that Beeley will have an opportunity of visiting Washington during his present visit to the United States and that he will then be able personally to give you a picture of the situation as we see it.

Yours ever,
EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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E 3247
18

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel,
No.2311
17th April,1947.

D. 9.08 p.m. 17th April,1947.

R. 4.45 a.m. 18th April,1947.

Repeated to Rome.

Q Q Q

IMPORTANT

Your telegram No.3672.

E. Inverchapel

Illegal immigration into Palestine.

In view of considerations advanced in Rome telegram No.824, do you still wish us to take action suggested in last sentence of your telegram under reference.

2. In any event, I do not think that any discussion in the central committee of UNRRA could have profitable result at this stage, and I hope therefore that Italians will not be encouraged to take the matter there. I believe we can handle it better by direct discussion with Katzen, and with less likelihood of difficulties with the Americans.

3. We are accordingly taking the matter up with him informally and in general terms at once, so as to make sure he is aware of your concern before he leaves for the United Kingdom early next week. But before taking any more formal action I should be grateful for a summary of points contained in Minister of State's letter to Sir Humphrey Gale as we would like any communication we make to be as concrete as is possible in the circumstances.

4. As regards reference in paragraph 5 of Rome telegram No.824 to "High UNRRA Personalities" I doubt if Rooks, Jackson or Katzen are in Zionist camp. Nor presumably is General Gale. Has His Majesty's Ambassador the UNRRA mission in Italy chiefly in mind. Second enclosure in your despatch number 3068 of 1946 indicated that at that time trouble was thought to lie in Italy and even more in Central Europe. Does general picture in that document in your view still hold good?

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18 APR 1947

Registry
No. E 3247/48/31
J.A.C.

Top Secret.
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Draft.

The Chancery,
Washington.

(From Eastern Dept.)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

~~Copy sent to
E 3534/48/31
and letter under
reply in E2716~~

*Mrs (agree
Refuge Dept.)
M. Warner*

E1857/cr

*Copy Mr Beeley
Ch. Del.
N. York*

~~*Not to be sent*~~

FILE OUT FILE 12
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

16 May 1947.

TOP SECRET

Dear Chancery,

Please refer to your telegram No.2311 of April 17th about Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine and the representations recently made by the Italian Government to U.N.R.R.A.

We enclose a copy of the Minister of State's letter to Sir H. Gale on this subject and of Mr. Dudley Ward's reply. We do not propose to ~~see~~ ^{follow} this matter further with U.N.R.R.A. in view of the fact that the organisation is in the process of closing down, and we do not now require you to address a communication to the Director-General as previously instructed. We are more concerned at present to prevent the A.J.D.C. and other Jewish bodies from securing the same special ~~concession~~ ^{position} under I.R.O. as they held under U.N.R.R.A. ^{NEW PARA} As regards the final question asked in your telegram, we send you herewith a copy of the latest survey of the illegal immigration situation prepared by the Intelligence Authorities. You will doubtless be particularly interested in Part XII which deals with the U.S.A. We hope that Beeley, ~~to whom we are sending a copy of this letter,~~ will have an opportunity of visiting Washington during his present visit to the United States and that he will then be able personally to give you a picture of the situation as we see it.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

JB May 7

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(E. 3247/48/31.)

16th May, 1947.

TOP SECRET

Dear Chancery,

Please refer to your telegram No. 2311 of 17th April about Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine and the representations recently made by the Italian Government to U.N.R.R.A.

We enclose a copy of the Minister of State's letter to Sir Humphrey Gale on this subject and of Mr. Ludley Ward's reply. We do not propose to pursue this matter further with U.N.R.R.A. in view of the fact that the organisation is in the process of closing down, and we do not now require you to address a communication to the Director-General as previously instructed. We are more concerned at present to prevent the A.J.D.C. and other Jewish bodies from securing the same special position under the International Refugee Organisation as they held under U.N.R.R.A.

As regards the final question asked in your telegram, we send you herewith a copy of the latest survey of the illegal immigration situation prepared by the intelligence authorities.

We hope that Beeley, to whom we are sending a copy of this letter, will have an opportunity of visiting Washington during his present visit to the United States and that he will then be able personally to give you a picture of the situation as we see it.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

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Palestine

EASTERN

E3256 / G 14

E3256 / 48 / G

Annex to illegal immigrant ships

Sir T. Lloyd
C.O.
Command

The copy ~~was to the same~~ correspondence
with Admiralty regarding
annex to illegal immigrant
ships.

Dated 16 April
Received 19 April

Last Paper.

E3219

(Minutes.)

See also E3338 / 48 / G

References.

E1348/48/G
E2119/48/31

Mr. Dodds of the Admiralty asked me whether I could let him know urgently what the Foreign Office view was on the proposal put forward in paragraph 11 of Mr. Lang's letter of April 15th within. After consulting Mr. Halford, I told Mr. Dodds that, as foreshadowed in Sir R. Howe's letter of 1 April to Mr. Martin of the Colonial Office, we should have no objection to the matter being taken once more to the Lord Chancellor. We should therefore be prepared to hear that the Lord Chancellor proposes to re-consider the matter with the assistance of the departmental experts concerned. No doubt Mr. Beckett will represent the Foreign Office, seconded by someone from the Eastern Department. I take it that the Foreign Office view remains as stated in Mr. Beckett's minute on E2119/48/31 and Sir R. Howe's letter of April 1st to the Colonial Office.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Mr. Evans ^{WAE 23/4}
→ (for Mr. Beckett)

J.G.S. Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)

22nd April, 1947.

Let us hope the ^{Lord} Chancellor takes a fighting
view.

(Action completed.)

DF 24/4

(Index.)

WPH.

Next Paper.

R. J. Curran
23/4

WPH 24/4

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COLONIAL OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

18 APR 1947
19 APR 1947

With Sir Thomas Lloyd's compliments.

16th April, 1947.

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371 / 61805

76021/54/47 Pal.

15th April, 1947. 16

Secret.

Dear Lang,

Thank you for your letter of 15th April to Jeffries on the subject of the arrest of illegal immigrant ships. We agree that the points of law should now be referred to the Lord Chancellor and that the departmental correspondence which you mention should be laid before him. The Colonial Office would wish to be represented at any meeting called by the Lord Chancellor.

2. We fully understand that even should the Lord Chancellor's opinion favour the interception of ships on the high seas, the Cabinet would have to decide whether in fact this practice should be adopted. As the "President Warfield" with a reputed capacity of 5000 has now arrived in Marseilles and, being a Honduran ship is a suitable subject for interception, we hope it will be possible to secure a decision within the next few days.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Orme Sargent.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd) T.I.K. Lloyd.

J.G. Lang, Esq., C.B.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF MR. J.G. LANG. E Dept

M. 558695/47

15th April, 1947. Admiralty

TOP SECRET. 17

Dear Jeffries,

You wrote to me on the 5th April on the subject of the arrest of illegal immigrant ships. As the First Sea Lord informed your Secretary of State on the 10th April, we have been in consultation with First Lord who is in the Mediterranean, and I am now in a position to give you our reply.

2. The issue dealt with in this letter is the proposal in your penultimate paragraph that H.M. Ships should be authorised to arrest on the high seas any illegal immigrant ship, either

- (a) whose flag state has agreed to interception;
- (b) whose registration certificate has been withdrawn at our request.

We have first to decide whether this is legal in international law, and if so whether H.M. Government are prepared, as a matter of policy, to approve it.

3. I make the above points in order to distinguish them from the practical operation of carrying out arrest and diversion to Cyprus; this would be purely a naval operation, would have to remain optional and would be put into effect by naval authorities on the spot whenever circumstances rendered it practicable.

4. I must put it on record that the Admiralty are still opposed to the policy outlined in paragraph 2 above, for the reasons given in Le Maitre's letter to Martin of the 7th March.

5. To the reasons given in that letter we may add the considerations that H.M. Government have recently taken a very high line about international law at sea in the Corfu mining

Sir C.J. Jeffries, K.C.M.G.,
U.S.E.

case

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-2-

case, and again that the principal critics of our Palestine policy, the U.S.A., are very sensitive about this aspect of international law from their experience in the "I'm alone" case.

6. We consider there is no contradiction between our present attitude and that which we took up in C.P.434 before the Cabinet. Proposals in C.P.434 dealt with the arrest on the high seas of ships that had no status and no protector, and so could not claim the benefits of international law. These proposals, therefore, we thought could be justified as legal, but the Lord Chancellor ruled that they were illegal. Your present proposals we think to be prima facie illegal, even though the flag state may accept the illegality.

7. We note from Howe's letter of the 1st April that the Foreign Office are prepared to accept agreement on the part of the flag state, in lieu of a formal treaty, to condone this illegality, - although we are not very happy about this.

8. We agree with the further Foreign Office view that only the flag state, and not the national state to which the actual owners may belong, would have the right to complain, but in this case it is not so much any complaints by individual states that we are afraid of, so much as the breach of law from the long term point of view.

9. To sum up, we do not believe that any short term advantage that might be gained by the expedient you advocate would be justified in the light of what we consider to be its potential long term results.

10. However, subject to the above remarks, we now agree that the Lord Chancellor should be consulted about the legality of the policy set out in paragraph 2.

11. As the Admiralty were the Department responsible for laying the original proposal before the Cabinet, we are prepared, unless we hear differently from yourself and the Foreign Office,

to

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to lay the departmental correspondence before the Lord Chancellor. I attach as an annex a list of the letters we would propose to lay. We assume that representatives of the Foreign Office, Colonial Office and the Admiralty would attend before the Lord Chancellor. I am sending a copy of this letter to Orme Sargent.

Yours sincerely,

J. B. G. G. G.

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Annex.List of Correspondence to be laid before
the Lord Chancellor.

- 1. Letter from Mr. Higham, Colonial Office, to Mr. Beith, Foreign Office, dated 12th February.
- 2. Letter from Mr. Beith to Mr. Higham dated 25th February.
3. Letter from Mr. Le Maitre, Admiralty, to Mr. Martin, Colonial Office, dated 7th March.
4. Letter from Mr. Martin to Mr. Le Maitre dated 7th March. (Received after despatch of letter 3).
- 5. Letter from Sir E.G. Howe, Foreign Office, to Mr. Martin, dated 1st April.
6. Letter from Sir C.J. Jefferies to Mr. Lang, Admiralty, dated 5th April.
7. Letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to First Sea Lord, dated 10th April.
8. Letter from First Sea Lord to Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 10th April.
9. Letter from Mr. Lang to Sir C.J. Jefferies, dated 15th April.

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E 3270

21

PALESTINE

21 APR

Registry Number } E3270/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Let. A. Charles

Rome

902

19 April 1948

21

Illegal Immigrants in Italy
Refer FO Let 3672 (E2716/48/31) States Italian
my Foreign Office are embarrassed by reports in
certain newspapers that FO spokesman reported
that Italian Govt had officially protested
against U.N.R.R.A.'s assistance to illegal Jewish
immigration. The my are under threat from
American journalists and directors of U.N.R.R.A.
Italian suspicion is aroused.

Last Paper.

3256

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Higham B.O.
Dodd & Adair
Smith & Adair
Garvey
Robert M15
April 21

(Action completed.)

8/27/48

(Index.)

9/14/48

Next Paper.

3275

(Minutes.)

I rather expected this reaction
and must hold myself responsible
for authorising News Dept. to
say something about our
support of the Italian case. I
don't think any great harm is
done but I suggest that
for the future we should
limit ourselves to stating
the general case about illegal
immigration (on which News
Dept are briefed and which
can be followed in the tabs.)
and refrain from publicising
any

32008 F.O.P.

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any representations we may
make to Govts. or international
bodies on the subject (especially
as in the nature of things
these representations cannot
always be very successful)

Newspaper ^{MM} ^{25/4}
Edward
Mr. Warner
Mar 26

J. S. Davis
Apr. 22

MM 29/4

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Cypher/OTP

E 3270
DEPARTMENTAL No. 2
21 APR

E 23

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir N Charles.

No. 902

D. 1. 24p.m. 19th April, 1947.

19th April, 1947.

R. 7. 10p.m. 19th April, 1947.

Repeated to Washington

2 2 2 2

E 2716/48/71

Your telegram No. 3,672 to Washington.

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs are embarrassed by the reports in certain Italian newspapers that Foreign Office spokesman revealed that the Italian Government had officially protested against U.N.R.R.A.'s assistance to illegal Jewish immigration (my telegram No. 713). The Ministry are under fire from American journalists and Director of U.N.R.R.A.'s Italian Mission is angry.

2. The Ministry feel that publicity about these delicate negotiations with U.N.R.R.A. should be avoided as far as possible.

Please repeat to Washington as my telegram No. 169.

[Repeated to Washington].

21 APR 1947

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E 3275

PALESTINE

21 APR

Registry Number } E3275/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. U.K. Del.

Dated New York.

Received in Registry } 120H
19 April 1949
21

Illegal Immigration

Refer to tel 1113 (E3043/46/31) stated at urgent request of U.S. Del. has asked Gen. to hold up any drastic action they were about to take as result of note to Mr. Rice. Mr. Acheson wishes to discuss matter as soon as possible with Mr. M. Subsey at W. H. S. A.

Last Paper.

3270

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

We shall see what Mr. Acheson has to say but we cannot hold our hands indefinitely. The Defence Committee wished this action taken and there is no reason I can see why it should not be. We can await Washington's observations for a day or two.

By: Apr. 24

Mr. Bealey
Min. Dept.
Mr. Subsey
Min. Dept.

Mr. S. Davis
Apr. 21
See E 3369 & minutes
JD. Apr. 24

(Action completed.)

GEM 24/4

(Index.)

[Signature] 24/4

Next Paper

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

E 3275 E

25

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From Permanent United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations)

No. 1204

D. 2.55 p.m. 19th April, 1947.

19th April, 1947.

R. 11.50 p.m. 19th April, 1947.

Repeated to Washington

F F F F

IMMEDIATE

GIANT

Your telegram No. 1113.

Illegal immigration into Palestine.

At urgent request of United States Delegation, I have asked Secretariat to hold up temporarily action which they were about to take as result of note which I addressed to Mr. Lie on April, 15th, requesting him to appeal to United Nations to prevent transit and departure of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally.

2. I understand that Mr. Acheson wishes to discuss the matter as soon as possible with His Majesty's Embassy in Washington. It was pointed out to United States Delegation, that we should wish Secretariat to take action (which would consist of telegraphing text of my note to all member states) at earliest opportunity, since question was connected with decision of His Majesty's Government to submit Palestine question to forthcoming assembly.

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RECEIVED
19 APR 1947

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E 3279

26

1947

PALESTINE

21

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 3279/48/31

G. Verker

Montevideo

63.

3 April 1947

21 - -

Illegal Immigration, Uruguayan Visas.
 Refn Montevideo despatch 199 of 28 Nov 1946 (E12136/7656/31). Transmits regulation governing issue of Uruguayan visas.

Last Paper.

3275

References.

(Minutes.)

* B. Apr. 22

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

PP
 JWH 23/4

MJH
 G/VA

Next Paper.

3280

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

No. 63.

OPEN.

E 3279

21 APR

BRITISH EMBASSY,

MONTEVIDEO.

3rd April, 1947.

27

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 199 of the 28th November, 1946, I have the honour to report that a decree published by the Ministry of the Interior on the 28th February last purports to define the conditions in which foreigners may obtain Uruguayan visas. This decree is extremely lengthy, but it really contains nothing new except in so far as it stipulates that prospective individual immigrants, unless their entry into Uruguay is part of a Government-sponsored scheme, must possess at least 10,000 pesos Uruguayan currency. In the case of a man and his wife, the amount is fixed at 8,000 pesos each while in the case of a family consisting of more than two persons each person must possess 6,000 pesos. Children under 15 do not count as individuals unless their number exceeds three, in which case each child must produce the sum of 500 pesos.

2. Immigrants, in addition to the usual health, vaccination and good conduct certificates, must be in a position to prove that they do not belong to, or sympathise with, any movement which favours the overthrow of the Government by violence. There is a long list of persons who will be regarded as ineligible for immigration, including beggars, lepers, lunatics, habitual drunkards, prostitutes and criminals of all kinds except those who have been condemned for political reasons.

3. Temporary visas will be granted to tourists, artists, lecturers, sportsmen, etcetera, on production of valid passports and health certificates.

4. Nationals, whether native or naturalised, of any country on the American Continent may enter Uruguay with no more formality than the production to a Uruguayan Consul of a passport or Cédula de Identidad, which will be visaed gratis. Argentines and Paraguayans are exempt even from the necessity of having their Cédulas visaed. Chileans will be provided with a special pass by the competent Uruguayan Consular Officer upon production to him of their Cédulas.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

Gordon Trevelyan

The Right Honourable
Clement Attlee, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.,

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

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References

FO 371 / 61805

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157

E

E 3280

28

1947

PALESTINE

21

Registry Number

E 3280/48/31

FROM

C.B. Ferran

No.

Legation Stockholm

Dated

to Mr. Rankin

Received in Registry

11 April 1947

21

Illegal Immigration
Refer to V. 161 (E 1275/48/5) Discovers
action taken on receipt of same, re
representation to Sweden
Stolen seems still to be awaiting suggestions
remained in V. 161 to Belgrade no 673
of March 15.

Last Paper.

3279

(Minutes.)

References.

E 3280/48/2, in duplicate
14

Copy Co. } usual names
Adm. }
M15 }

& resubmit with pp.

B. Apr. 22

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ diploma. B.O.

Goods Identity
Health.

Adm. M15.

Garry.

April 23.
P.J. O.

Draft to Stockholm
Northern Dept. a/c J.D. May 2
JPL
13.V

(Action completed.)

P. J. O. 4/1

(Index.)

4/1

Next Paper.

3306

32003 F.O.P

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Reference: FO 371 / 61805

29

Sgt. J. F. Henderson
Stockholm
from M. Beith
✓ *May 8*
(Restricted)

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Reference:
FO 371 / 61805

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22 enthr

British Legation
Stockholm.
11th April, 1947.

(54/40/47)

E 3280
21 APR

E

Restricted:

My dear Hankey,

Telegrams from London in to-day's Swedish papers alleging that a Note has been addressed to the Swedish Government on the illegal traffic to Palestine remind me that I have not yet found time to report the action I have taken here as a result of your more recent instructions.

I did not write a Note; largely for the reason that a Note, unless watered down to an extent that would deprive it of all vigour, would almost certainly have evoked a legalistic reply from the Swedes, which would have left us where we were before. What I wanted was to ensure that the Swedes would not offend again. After receipt of your telegram No. 161 I called on Monsieur Undén on March 13th and impressed upon him that His Majesty's Government were gravely concerned at Sweden having become a collecting base for illegal immigration into Palestine. I gave him all the facts about the "Ulua" and reminded him that before that vessel had left Sweden, I had, he himself being engaged at the Riksdag, spoken in the most urgent manner to the Head of the Political Department, and had informed him amongst other things that the Cuban Government had repudiated the visas. (A statement that these visas were forged was in fact published by the Cuban Legation in Stockholm in the Swedish press of March 13th). Monsieur Grafström promised to bring my representations to the immediate attention of the Swedish Government; nevertheless the "Ulua" had been allowed to leave. I repeated once more/

The Hon. R.M.A. Hankey, C.M.G.
Northern Department,
Foreign Office.

6/9
1275/45/9

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

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39 RECEIVED IN O.B.
 18 APR 1947
 NT TO DEPT.
 21 APR 1947

more to Monsieur Undén the arguments advanced in the enclosure to the letter from the Eastern Department to my Chancery of February 6th.

Monsieur Undén seemed embarrassed. He admitted that he had suspected that these Jews were going to Palestine, though their leader had assured the police who had interrogated him that they were in fact bound for Cuba. This man would get into serious trouble if he returned to Sweden on the ground of having deceived the police. The Swedish authorities had examined the boat to see if they could find any grounds for holding it up for sanitary or security reasons. But no such grounds could be found. Monsieur Undén tried once more, but with no great assurance, to return to the matter of principle, and cited the Swedish reply to the Russians who had objected to Estonians being allowed to leave Sweden. I replied that that seemed to me quite a different matter; there was no suggestion that these Estonians were leaving with the deliberate purpose of breaking the laws of any other country or even that they could conceivably embarrass the Soviet Union by their presence in one country rather than in another.

Monsieur Undén, without giving me any definite promise, took notes of what I had said and was keenly interested in such details as I could give him of other suspected vessels lying in Swedish ports. I left him in no doubt whatever that, though my present representations were more in the nature of a warning as to the future than a protest about the past, we should feel that we had very serious cause for complaint if a similar happening occurred again. From the questions he asked it was clear that Monsieur Undén proposed to explore the question once more.

On/

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Reference:

FO

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61805

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2248/28/9

On receipt of your telegram No. 613 to Belgrade (No. 203 to us) of March 15th, I called on the Secretary-General; reminded him of the talk I had had a few days earlier with Monsieur Undén of which he was aware; told him that since that interview I had received a further telegram instructing me to reinforce my representations in vigorous terms; and in fact left him in no doubt that continued facilitation of the traffic would not be beneficial to the relations between our countries.

Incidentally I still seem to be awaiting the suggestions promised in paragraph 3 of your telegram to Belgrade No. 613 of March 15th.

I am trying to find out the preset state of would-be immigrant Jewry in Sweden, and whether in fact there is likely to be a repetition of attempted shipment from here.

Yours ever,

C. B. Ferran

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Registry
No. E 3280/48/31

J.G.S.B.

Draft.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Mr. J. T. Henderson
Stockholm.

J.G.S.
(From Mr. Beith)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

OUT FILE

8 May 1947.

32

+OC
My dear Jim,

Jerram's letter to Hankey
54/40/47, of April 11th, has come to
the Eastern Department for action, and
I am accordingly replying to the point
he raised in the penultimate paragraph
about the further suggestions promised
in paragraph 3 of Foreign Office telegram
to Belgrade No. 613 of March 15th.

We are not at present in ~~the a~~
position to add very much to the guidance
we have already sent you on this subject.
I would, however, refer you to ~~a final~~
^{an official}
despatch which you will shortly receive
on the subject of the obligations of
member states under the International
Conventions for the Safety of Life at
Sea and respecting Load Lines.

Out as P.S.

*P.S. I was
able to explain the position
personally
to Jerram, whom I have just
seen here.
Yours ever,
(Sgd.) John Beith. 10 May 2*

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

33

8th May, 1947.

(E. 3280/48/31).

RESTRICTED

My dear Jim,

Jerram's letter to Hankey 54/40/47, of 11th April, has come to the Eastern Department for action, and I am accordingly replying to the point he raised in the penultimate paragraph about the further suggestions promised in paragraph 3 of Foreign Office telegram to Belgrade No. 613 of 15th March.

We are not at present in a position to add very much to the guidance we have already sent you on this subject. I would, however, refer you to an official despatch which you will shortly receive on the subject of the obligations of member states under the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and respecting Load Lines.

Yours ever,
(Sgd.) John Beith
(J.G.S. Beith).

P.S. I was able to explain the position personally to Jerram, whom I have just seen here.

J.T. Henderson, Esq.,
Stockholm.

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Class *371*

Piece *61805*

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

E3306/48/31

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Reference:

FO

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1947

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PALESTINE

E 3319

34

22

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 3319/48/31.

U.K. Mail

New York

106

1947/2/147

15 April 1947

22

Illegal Immigration
Refer to dispatch 128 of Mar 29
(E 1677/46/31) Transmitted copy of
letter from Sir N. Lodge dated 11
Apr 1947, United States, re activities
with regard to illegal immigration
into Palestine.

Last Paper.

E 3306

References

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ P.O.
April 28

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

[Signature]

[Signature]
9/11/48

Next Paper.

E 3331

(Minutes.)

Copy VCO.

(and to D.O. on request
via D. (D))

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

J.S. Sims

Apr. 22

J.D. Apr. 24

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Reference:

FO

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61805

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No. 106 (193/2/47)

at New York, ^{E 35}

HIS Majesty's Permanent Delegate to United Nations/
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S. of S. for Foreign
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British...Delegation to the

.....United Nations,

.....New York.....

April 15,....., 1947....

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O.Despatch No.128 of March 29th,1947.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of letter to His Excellency, M. Trygve Lie, United Nations.	Illegal Jewish immigration to Palestine.

(copies also sent to Washington and Moscow).

E 3319
22

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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36

April 15, 1947

No.28
(Ref.193/2/47)

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

In connection with the decision of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to submit the question of Palestine to the General Assembly of the United Nations, I have the honour, under instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to draw Your Excellency's attention to the situation in regard to illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine.

2. As an indication of the extent of this problem I could mention that during the four and a half months from mid-October 1946 onwards approximately 11,000 Jewish illegal immigrants from various European ports were intercepted in Palestine waters and diverted to camps in Cyprus. This figure may be compared with the present legal immigration rate of 12,000 a year and the fact, mentioned by Mr. Bevin in his speech in the House of Commons on February 25th last, that 96,000 Jewish immigrants had then entered Palestine since December 1945.

3. In the face of this situation His Majesty's Government recently made renewed representations to all the European Governments concerned to prevent the departure of illegal immigrant vessels. Now, however, that the question of Palestine has been submitted to the United Nations, His Majesty's Government consider that it is especially incumbent on all States Members of the Organisation to prevent the encouragement of any illegal activity which is likely to increase the difficulty of finding a solution of the Palestine problem. I am, therefore, instructed to request you to appeal to all Member States to take the strictest precautions, in so far as they are concerned, to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports

His Excellency,
M. Trygve Lie,
Secretary-General, United Nations,
Lake Success, Long Island.

/of...

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

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of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally.

4. I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will inform me of the steps which you are able to take to give effect to this request.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(*Sydney*) A. CADOGAN

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E 3331

38

PALESTINE

22 APR

Registry Number

E 3331/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Lord Saverhead
W. A. Higgins

2382.

21 April 1948

22 - -

Illegal Immigration

Refer New York tel 1204 (E 3275/48/91)
re rate of fee for illegal immigration.
State Roy Henderson explained State Dept's
views and gave reasons for suggesting
that question be left over until the
Special Committee is set up.

Last Paper.

3319

References.

(Minutes.)

See E3369 & minutes

B. E. Baird
Apr. 24

B. Apr. 28

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

G. E. M. 19/4

R. H. 19/48

Next Paper.

E 3338

32008 F.O.P.

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E 3331

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22 APR

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Cypher/OTF WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel D. 7.34 p.m. 21st April 1947
No. 2382 R. 2.55 a.m. 22nd April 1947

21st April 1947
Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York

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IMMEDIATE
SECRET
GIANT

3275/48 E

United Kingdom Delegation New York telegram No. 1204.
Note to Secretary-General of United Nations on illegal immigration.

Loy Henderson explained State Department's views on telephone this evening. They are that, if Secretary-General were to circularise member States about illegal immigration at His Majesty's Government's request before Special Assembly meets, probable result would be that someone would raise matter in the Special Assembly and that a discussion on this question of substance might then arise, which is what we want to avoid. He said that the Arabs are considering the putting forward of a Resolution aimed at preventing Jewish immigration pending discussion by the United Nations in September, whilst the Zionists want to persuade the United Nations to ensure that free Jewish immigration is permitted during that period. The Secretary-General's proposed appeal might thus well precipitate a discussion.

2. He emphasised that the State Department did not wish to hinder us in our action but that they felt that, if we wished United Nations assistance on this point, it would be better for it to be deferred until the Special Committee is set up. The appeal could then be made by the Secretary-General on the ground that the Palestine question was now on the agenda for the September Assembly and that the Committee's and Assembly's work should not be prejudiced by any encouragement of the illegal immigration traffic from members of the United Nations.

3. I should be grateful for any instructions you may wish to send, but State Department inform us that Mr. Herschel Johnson will also discuss this matter with Sir Alexander Cadogan.



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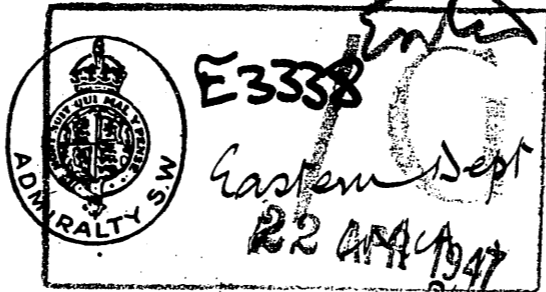
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N

<p>1947 95 31</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E3338 /G 40 22 FEB 1947</p>
<p>E3338 /48/C. Private Secretary Adly Command dated Received 22 April</p>	<p>Annex of <u>illegal immigration ships</u> Attaches correspondence between C.O. and Admiralty regarding annex of illegal immigration ships.</p>	
<p>Last Paper. E3306</p>	<p>(Minutes.) See E3256 /48/C and minute</p>	
<p>References. E1378/48/C E2119/48/31 E2066/48/31 E2996/48/31</p>	<p>Mr Evans ^{WAG} 23/4 D. S. Bevis Apr. 22 (BEITH) M 24/4</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p>		
<p>(Action completed.) 25 24/4</p>	<p>(Index.) WAG</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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With
the Private Secretary's
compliments.

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

19th April, 1947.

You will remember that in C.A.(46) 452 the First Lord made proposals to the Cabinet that Commanding Officers of H.M. Ships should be given authority to arrest on the high seas certain specified categories of vessels suspected of carrying illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine. The Cabinet (Cabinet 104 (46)), conclusion (c) approved that the legal implications of this proposal should be discussed by the Lord Chancellor with the legal advisers of the Foreign Office and the Admiralty and finally, as a result of the Lord Chancellor's opinion, (C.A.(46) 463), the First Lord did not pursue the above proposals.

Since that time, we have been giving consideration to certain revised proposals made by the Colonial Office, and supported by the Foreign Office, to the effect that H.M. Ships should be authorised to arrest on the high seas any illegal immigrant ship, either

- (a) whose flag state has agreed to interception.
- (b) whose registration certificate has been withdrawn at our request.

Copies of the correspondence between the three departments, which are enclosed with this letter, sufficiently set out the viewpoints expressed. As the correspondence indicates, the Foreign Office, Colonial Office and Admiralty have agreed that their representatives should consult the Lord Chancellor as to the legality in international law of these revised proposals.

At the desire of the First Lord I therefore write to ask whether the Lord Chancellor would be good enough to study this correspondence and to arrange to meet the representatives of the departments concerned at an early date.

I am sending copies of this letter to the private secretaries at the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office.

J. V. BATTERSBY

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Reference:

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COPY.

M.059695/47.

15th April, 1947.

TOP SECRET.

Dear Jeffries,

You wrote to me on the 5th April on the subject of the arrest of illegal immigrant ships. As the First Sea Lord informed your Secretary of State on the 10th April, we have been in consultation with First Lord who is in the Mediterranean, and I am now in a position to give you our reply.

2. The issue dealt with in this letter is the proposal in your penultimate paragraph that H.M. Ships should be authorised to arrest on the high seas any illegal immigrant ship, either

- (a) whose flag state has agreed to interception;
- (b) whose registration certificate has been withdrawn at our request.

We have first to decide whether this is legal in international law, and if so whether H.M. Government are prepared, as a matter of policy, to approve it.

3. I make the above points in order to distinguish them from the practical operation of carrying out arrest and diversion to Cyprus; this would be purely a naval operation, would have to remain optional and would be put into effect by naval authorities on the

Sir C.J. Jeffries, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.

spot/...

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spot whenever circumstances rendered it practicable.

4. I must put it on record that the Admiralty are still opposed to the policy outlined in paragraph 2 above, for the reasons given in Le Maitre's letter to Martin of the 7th March.

5. To the reasons given in that letter we may add the considerations that H.M. Government have recently taken a very high line about international law at sea in the Corfu mining case, and again that the principal critics of our Palestine policy, the U.S.A., are very sensitive about this aspect of international law from their experience in the "I'm alone" case.

6. We consider there is no contradiction between our present attitude and that which we took up in C.P.434 before the Cabinet. Proposals in C.P.434 dealt with the arrest on the high seas of ships that had no status and no protector, and so could not claim the benefits of international law. These proposals, therefore, we thought could be justified as legal, but the Lord Chancellor ruled that they were illegal. Your present proposals we think to be prima facie illegal, even though the flag state may accept the illegality.

7. We note from Howe's letter of the 1st April that the Foreign Office are prepared to accept agreement on the part of the flag state, in lieu of a formal Treaty, to condone this illegality - although we are not very happy about this.

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8. We agree with the further Foreign Office view that only the flag state, and not the national state to which the actual owners may belong, would have the right to complain, but in this case it is not so much any complaints by individual states that we are afraid of, so much as the breach of law from the long term point of view.

9. To sum up, we do not believe that any short term advantage that might be gained by the expedient you advocate would be justified in the light of what we consider to be its potential long term results.

10. However, subject to the above remarks, we now agree that the Lord Chancellor should be consulted about the legality of the policy set out in paragraph 2.

11. As the Admiralty were the Department responsible for laying the original proposal before the Cabinet, we are prepared, unless we hear differently from yourself and the Foreign Office, to lay the departmental correspondence before the Lord Chancellor. I attach as an annex a list of the letters we would propose to lay. We assume that representatives of the Foreign Office, Colonial Office and the Admiralty would attend before the Lord Chancellor. I am sending a copy of this letter to Orme Sargent.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J.G. Lang.

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Reference:

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61805

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ANNEX.

List of correspondence to be laid
before the Lord Chancellor.

1. Letter from Mr. Higham, Colonial Office, to Mr. Beith, Foreign Office, dated 12th February. E1348/48/9
2. Letter from Mr. Beith to Mr. Higham dated 25th February. E1348/48/9
3. Letter from Mr. Le Maitre, Admiralty, to Mr. Martin, Colonial Office, dated 7th March. E2119/48/31
4. Letter from Mr. Martin to Mr. Le Maitre dated 7th March. (Received after despatch of letter 3). E2066/48/31
5. Letter from Sir R.G. Howe, Foreign Office, to Mr. Martin, dated 1st April. E309/48/31
6. Letter from Sir C.J. Jeffries to Mr. Lang, Admiralty, dated 5th April. E2996/48/31
7. Letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to First Sea Lord, dated 10th April.
8. Letter from First Sea Lord to Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 10th April.
9. Letter from Mr. Lang to Sir C.J. Jeffries, dated 15th April.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

47

COPY.

TOP SECRET.

10th April, 1947.

My dear Secretary of State,

With reference to your letter of the 10th April, I have seen and carefully considered Jeffries' letter to Lang of the 5th April, and realise to the full the difficult situation arising from the imminent arrival in Palestine of the GUARDIAN. I am sending a telegram to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, reiterating previous Admiralty instructions that he may, at his discretion, attempt peacefully to divert ships with illegal immigrants bound for Haifa to Famagusta. I am, however, not at all hopeful that such action will produce any result.

2. With regard to seizure and forcible diversion of these ships outside territorial waters, I feel that I am bound by the Cabinet decision of the 20th December, and must therefore refer the matter to the First Lord, which I am doing by telegram forthwith. I must, however, say that in my opinion it will be necessary to obtain the Lord Chancellor's opinion before submission to the Cabinet that the decision of 20th December should be varied. There are, as you know, serious Naval objections to tampering with the existing doctrine of freedom on the high seas.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Minister
The Rt. Hon. A. Creech Jones, M.P. of/.....
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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- 2 -

of Defence and Minister of State.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J.H.D. Cunningham.

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SECRET - IMMEDIATE.

COPY.

Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

10th April, 1947.

My dear Sir John,

Will you refer to Jeffries' letter to Lang of the 5th April on subject of diversion of certain illegal immigrant ships to Cyprus direct. The recent sabotage of OCEAN VIGOUR and EMPIRE RIVAL has, I understand, reduced the carrying capacity of the transports on the Haifa-Cyprus haul to 1,300. We have reliable information that GUARDIAN, a Hondurian ship, left the south of France on the 1st April with 2,400 Jews on board. If it became necessary to land a substantial number of illegal immigrants for temporary detention in Atlit camp, there would be the gravest danger of a serious civil conflagration in Palestine, and I consider that the most urgent and drastic measures are necessary to avoid this possibility. It appears from Tegucigalpa telegram No.12 to the Foreign Office that the Hondurian Government have no objection to the interception on the high seas of their ships engaged in this traffic, and I would therefore ask you to consider most seriously whether instructions cannot at once be issued to C. in C., Mediterranean, to attempt the diversion of this ship should it be practicable from the naval point of view.

I/.....

Admiral Sir John Cunningham,
G.C.B., M.V.O.

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I may say that I am writing to the Minister of Transport to ask if he will divert a troopship to Haifa forthwith for the purpose of dealing with the GUARDIAN passengers, in case diversion should not be effected, and we have asked the High Commissioner to consider, in conjunction with the military and naval authorities at Haifa, whether it would be possible to use the GUARDIAN as a temporary accommodation ship.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Minister of Defence and the Minister of State.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. Creech Jones.

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SECRET

76021/54/47

51
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

5th April, 1947.

Dear Lang

Since the Cabinet decided on 19th December (C.M.(46) 107th Conclusions) not to proceed with the Admiralty proposal that certain categories of illegal immigrant ships should be arrested on the high seas and diverted to Cyprus, the Admiralty and the Colonial Office have been examining a suggestion that interception and diversion might be practised if the flag States of the vessels concerned had given prior agreement to this action. The views of the Board of Admiralty strongly opposing this suggestion are set out in Le Maitre's letter to Martin of 7th March. Howe has now given the Foreign Office opinion in his letter of 1st April, of which he sent a copy to Le Maitre, from which you will see that the Foreign Office consider that, provided the formal agreement of the flag State is obtained, there would be no grounds for complaint about subsequent interception either from the flag State or the national State of the owner.

I, of course, realise how reluctant the

/Admiralty

J.G. Lang, Esq., C.B.

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to

Admiralty must be open the door to developments in international maritime law which may work to our disadvantage, but I imagine from your advocacy of the original proposals submitted to the Cabinet, that your objections will be largely removed if it is clear, as Howe's letter suggests, that there is no question of introducing any new principle of law.

The Colonial Office reasons for wishing to divert ships to Cyprus are set out in Martin's letter to Le Maitre of 7th March. The importance of avoiding the incidents which accompany the arrival of ships in Haifa is illustrated by the very serious outrage against the oil depot within an hour of the berthing of the SAN FILIPO on the night of the 30/31 March. As you may know, there is a strong probability that a large Honduran ship, the PRESIDENT WARFIELD, with accommodation for several thousand, will be sent to Palestine in the near future. The arrival of large numbers at Haifa - numbers certainly beyond the capacity of the transports used for the Cyprus haul - would create a most difficult situation, particularly if it were necessary to disembark these people and hold them in temporary detention in Palestine, and we are sure you will agree that we must do everything possible to avoid this. Doubtless the storm would be weathered, but only at the cost of increased strife and bitterness and British casualties. It is only in connection with activities to

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further illegal immigration that there is still a bond of sympathy between the Jewish community and the terrorists and we are anxious to avoid any possible occasion for a rapprochement.

My Secretary of State hopes, therefore, that you will reconsider the view that interception and diversion cannot be undertaken and that the Admiralty will now feel able to agree that His Majesty's Ships should be instructed to send to Cyprus any illegal immigrant ship either

- (a) whose flag State has agreed to interception; or
- (b) whose registration certificate has been withdrawn at our request.

If you feel, in view of the Lord Chancellor's earlier views on this subject expressed in C.P.(46), 463, that we should not proceed without consulting him further we should, of course, see no objection; but either you or we should, we feel take the matter up with him at a very early date. I emphasise the necessity for a quick decision, since I believe that the PRESIDENT WARFIELD has now left Philadelphia

I am sending a copy of this letter to Orme Sargent.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) C.J. Jeffries
(for Lloyd who is away).

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COPY.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

1st April, 1947.

(E. 2119/48/31).

Dear Martin,

You may care to have the views of our Legal Adviser on the legal arguments stated in Le Maitre's letter of the 7th March to you about the interception of illegal immigrant vessels with the consent of the flag State.

Beckett points out, with reference to paragraph 4 of the Admiralty letter, that in his view the position is as follows.

If you arrest, say, a Honduran ship on the high seas, then prima facie Honduras has a legitimate complaint against you. If, however, she has consented to your so doing, then she can make no complaint and it is really quite immaterial whether her consent takes the shape of a formal treaty or any other shape. If there were anything in the Admiralty objections, it would be on another point, i.e. that you may have a Honduran ship which is, say, American-owned, so that, though Honduras cannot complain, the United States may. Here again, Beckett thinks that there is a legal answer namely, that where treaties have been concluded for arrests on the high seas, - and the United States have concluded such treaties - the consent of the flag State alone has been found to be sufficient.

In/.....

J.M. Martin, Esq., Colonial Office.

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In the circumstances, there is nothing, so far as we can see, to prevent the Colonial Office taking the matter to the Lord Chancellor if they wish to do so. There may, indeed be very few cases where we shall succeed in securing the consent of the flag State and although we would only secure the relative advantage of early diversion to Cyprus and not the final immobilisation of a potential illegal immigrant ship, we nevertheless think the matter is worth pursuing.

In short, we think we should aim:-

- (a) at getting certificates of registration removed from suspect ships;
- (b) at securing approval for interception on the high seas of (1) ships without certificates of registration and (2) ships whose flag State has agreed to interception.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Le Maitre.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) R.G. Howe.

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76021/54/47.

COPY. Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

SECRET.

Dear Le Maitre,

As you will be aware from Beith's letter to Higham of the 25th of February, the Foreign Office legal adviser considers that the interception of illegal immigrant ships on the high seas, with the agreement of the flag States concerned, would be covered under international law. I understand, however, that the Board of Admiralty have certain doubts regarding both the legality and the advisability of such a course.

I am writing to you to put on record that the considerations which led us to welcome the Admiralty's original proposals to the Cabinet apply with still greater force today. The High Commissioner reports that every arrival of an illegal immigrant ship throws the Jewish community into a state of highly wrought emotional tension. Although I would not claim that the arrival of the ULUA on the 28th February was the direct cause of the outrages of the 1st March, there is no doubt that the terrorists are only too glad to seize an opportunity of this kind as an immediate excuse for their operations, while the Jewish population are so strongly in favour of immigration legal or illegal that they are more ready to condone terrorism when it appears to be connected with the arrival of a fresh shipload of refugees.

H.S. Le Maitre, Esq., C.B.

You/....

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

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You will also not be unaware of the difficulties caused by the present Jewish practice of applying for writs of Habeas Corpus in an endeavour to prevent the deportation of immigrants to Cyprus. Fortunately these attempts have so far been unsuccessful and I now learn that the High Court have rejected an application which was made following the arrival of the ULUA. However, considerable inconvenience is caused by the necessity of keeping the immigrants on board ship within territorial waters pending the hearing of these cases and the fact that proceedings before the Court are being taken does not in any way help to lessen the emotional tension in Palestine.

There have, as you know, been persistent rumours of an attempt to run a squadron of ships through to Palestine in company. No doubt this would be a difficult feat of seamanship for the crews of such illfound vessels, but I imagine the possibility must be taken seriously. Recent evidence of such an attempt is more circumstantial than any we have previously had. In addition we must prepare for the early arrival of a considerable number of ships and immigrants and there is a possibility that three at least are now on their way to Palestine. Reliable reports place the probable number of immigrants for whom ships are now available as 25 - 30,000, while it is quite possible that 10,000 of these may arrive within the next few weeks. The coming weeks may therefore bring great practical difficulties in the way of receiving these ships at Haifa and arranging for the trans-shipment of immigrants to Cyprus, and we/....

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we should be very reluctant to abandon, without the most compelling reasons, a proposal which, although it does not lessen the total number of immigrants to be dealt with, does offer some prospect of easing the practical difficulties of their reception and of minimizing the internal security difficulties of the Palestine administration and the military authorities.

The question is, we submit, of great importance and urgency and we should be grateful for an early expression of the Admiralty's views. It may be that, before reaching a final decision, you would prefer the legal aspect to be submitted to the Lord Chancellor. If so, I am sure that my Secretary of State would concur in the proposal.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Howe at the Foreign Office.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J.M. Martin.

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59

COPY.

M.059695/47.

U.S.S.,
Admiralty, S.W.1.

TOP SECRET.

7th March, 1947.

Dear Martin,

Would you please refer to Higham's letter of the 12th February to Beith, a copy of which was sent to Dodds (76021/54/47). As you know the application of the proposed policy to the recent case of the ULUA was overtaken by the arrival of the ship off Palestine.

2. In the meantime, however, we have been considering the general question. I need hardly say that the Admiralty are very unwilling to interfere with the fundamental principle of the freedom of the seas which Lord Stowell described as follows:-

"In places where no local authority exists where the subjects of all states meet upon a footing of entire equality and independence no one state or any of its subjects has a right to assume or exercise authority over the servants of another".

J.M. Martin, Esq., C.B., C.V.O.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

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COPY.

Foreign Office, S.W.1.

(E.1378/48/G).

25th February, 1947.

Dear Higham,

Thank you for your letter of the 12th February containing the suggestion that we might ask countries whose flag is being worn by illegal immigrant ships to agree to their interception on the high seas by the Royal Navy, and to their arrest if the Navy find confirmatory evidence.

Our Legal Adviser agrees that we would be covered under international law in proceeding accordingly, since the flag state will have agreed to our action and cannot therefore complain of it. We are somewhat doubtful whether the proposed action will yield useful results since:-

- (a) it may take us some time to secure the concurrence of the Government concerned,
- (b) the vessel concerned may not stick to the original flag under which she left her port of departure. If, however, she changed her flag, it might well be for an unrecognised flag such as the Zionist emblem, and we should presumably then be justified in intercepting her in the same way.

In/.....

J.D. Higham, Esq., Colonial Office.

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59

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M.059695/47.

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Admiralty, S. W. 1.

TOP SECRET.

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J. M. Martin, Esq., C. B., C. V. O.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

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- 2 -

3. Whenever we have done or acquiesced in anything contrary to this principle in peacetime we have made a formal international treaty and we have made it clear that the action was exceptional and did not affect the fundamental freedom.
4. The Board feel that to consult an individual Flag state ad hoc when the ship is already en route for Palestine cannot be regarded as an adequate substitute for a formal treaty.
5. As a great seafaring nation we ought to be very careful to do nothing which opens the door to developments in international maritime law which may work to our disadvantage. In the end we might have to submit to the arrest of our own ships on the high seas for quite frivolous reasons and refusal to agree to this might be construed as an unfriendly act.
6. In short, bearing in mind that to a great extent maritime international law was invented by and for the advantage of the maritime powers we should do nothing to weaken it even if there would be a minor immediate advantage.
7. I am sending a copy of this letter to Howe at the Foreign Office.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A.S. Le Maitre.

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COPY.

Foreign Office, S.W.1.

(E.1378/48/G).

25th February, 1947.

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- (b) the vessel concerned may not stick to the original flag under which she left her port of departure. If, however, she changed her flag, it might well be for an unrecognised flag such as the Zionist emblem, and we should presumably then be justified in intercepting her in the same way.

In/....

J.D. Higham, Esq., Colonial Office.

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- 2 -

In any case the best plan would seem to be to give this new idea a trial and we would propose to do so with the next ship that we know to be on the way. Will you let us have the name and registry of your first candidate?

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dodds at the Admiralty.

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TOP SECRET

76021/54/47.

Dear Beith,

You will recall that in my letter to Dodds of the 16th of December I suggested that countries whose flags had been falsely assumed by illegal immigrant ships might be asked to agree to the interception of ships wearing their colours in order that their identity could be verified and any abuse of flag checked.

Since then, the Cabinet have of course turned down the idea of intercepting illegal immigrant ships on the high seas, but you will see from Palestine telegram No. 271 that the High Commissioner has again returned to the charge asking for reconsideration of this decision. I spoke to Beckett about this telegram and he felt that unless we could advance very new and very weighty reasons, there was little chance of inducing the Cabinet to modify their previous opinion, and we shall probably therefore have to tell the High Commissioner that we can do nothing at least at present.

Perhaps, however, you would consider pursuing the suggestion in paragraph 1, although I think the original idea should be

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.

/somewhat

Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

12th February, 1947. 63

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somewhat modified. Our requirements would best be met if the Hondurian and other Governments could be approached once it was known that a ship wearing their flag was on its way to Palestine, with a request that they would agree to the interception of the ship on the high seas by the Royal Navy and to her arrest if the Navy found confirmatory evidence.

I should be grateful if this question could be considered urgently. I am sending a copy of this letter to Dodds, Admiralty.

Yours sincerely, .

(Sgd.) J.D. HIGHAM.

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E 3349

1947

PALESTINE

23

Registry Number

E 3349/48/31

FROM

Mr Leche
Embassy

No.

London

Dated

132

Received in Registry

April 15, 1947
- 27 -

Jewish Immigration into Palestine
Copy of minute from Mr Karkas & Mr Leche of April 3. Giving views of Mr Bowen, U.S. Ambassador, on his point policy re Jewish immigration into Palestine.

(Minutes.)

Last Paper.

3346

References.

S.A. Dept.

copy CO. 15 Apr 24

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S.P.O.
✓ April 26

(Action completed.)

9/29/47

(Index)

9/29/48

Next Paper.

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No. 132. ✓

E 66

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Santiago presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents. of State for Foreign Affairs.

British.....Embassy,.....

.....Santiago,.....

...Chile.....

...April 15th 1947....7.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Minute from Mr. Larkins to Mr. Leche of the 3rd April, 1947.	U.S. Ambassador expresses views on his Government's policy re Jewish immigration to Palestine. JKZ E 3349 23 APR

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MINUTE

3rd April, 1947.

To: The Ambassador.

From: Commercial
Counsellor.

At the dinner given last night by the Canadian Ambassador to General Carrasco and Señora, the conversation turned on the Jewish question - prompted, I think, by Mr. Bowers. He observed that not more than one or two in every 10,000 Jews in the U.S.A. was a Zionist and he particularly referred to Rabbi Stephen Wise's condemnation of Terrorist activities. He emphasised that no Jews happily settled in the U.S.A., N.Y., Canada, Australia and many other countries had the slightest intention or desire to settle in Palestine; the Zionist movement, as at present constituted, comprises the former inhabitants of the Central European Ghettos and has no sympathy from respectable Jews. He described the Jews in the U.S.A., U.K., etc., as "Jews by religion and not by race", since they live our lives and subscribe to our laws and occupy in so many cases positions of influence and trust. Mr. Bowers expressed the opinion quite forcibly that his Government had made a grave mistake in trying to force 100,000 Jews into a country where they were not wanted and which could not conveniently absorb them.

Your Excellency is no doubt aware of Mr. Bowers' views on this subject, but I report the above because he so unhesitatingly expressed his opinion to a mixed audience, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Carrasco, Señor Castellblanco (who translated) and Señor Valdivieso.

L.R.S.L. 3/4/47.

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E

E 3369

23 APR

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E 3369/48/31
 TELEGRAM FROM
 No. Lord Larnach
 Dated Washington
 Received in Registry } 2399
 22 April 1948
 23

Illegal Immigration
 Refer Wilson tel 2382 (E 3331/48/31) re note to Ac Gen on Illegal Immigration. Kramm further points by Acheson, pointing out that he is of the opinion that it would be better for the U.S. themselves to address Govt concerned rather than through U.N.

Last Paper.

3349

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel. A.K. Ad.
 New York.
 1254
 Rptd Wilson 4057
 25 April
 J. Lifford Smith
 PO
 April 28

(Action completed.)

J. Lifford Smith
28/4

(Index.)

J. Lifford Smith
9/10/48

Next Paper.

3370

(Minutes.)

* pp. now attached
 Unfortunately this has turned up without even a copy of the immediate reference.

The State Department's previous suggestion, that circulation of the note from the Secretary-General should be held up until after the special session of the Assembly, had much to commend it. The Colonial Office proposed this postponement to the risk of precipitating a debate on immigration in the Assembly.

But ^{Mr. Acheson's latest} ~~the~~ suggestion, that we should take no action at any time through the United Nations, is quite another matter. I suspect that the U.S. Govt's desire to avoid embarrassment for themselves has played some part in shaping their advice to us.

Presumably United Nations Dept. were satisfied, when Sir A. Cadogan was instructed

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to approach the Secretary-General, that the latter was competent to circulate members in the sense we proposed. But if there is any doubt on this point we may have to consider again the alternative of inviting the Assembly to denounce illegal immigration. It is an unsatisfactory alternative, I think, because it would certainly lead to a controversial debate, and we might I suppose fail to persuade the Assembly, in which case our last state would be worse than our first.

H. Bealey
23/4

15 Apr 24
Mr. Beith

U.N. Dept. First

I did not myself see the draft instructions to Sir A. Cadogan in E 1677, but I do not know why this issue should be outside the Secretary-General's competence: and there is no sign that Sir A. Cadogan thinks it is - rather the reverse. I think this latest telegram must be dictated by U.S. political considerations, and I should have thought we could have agreed on the line at para. 2 of Washington tel. 2382 (E 3331)

J. Mason
24.4

Please/

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Please see the Minister of State's minute on the attached copy of this telegram. "The Times" to-day has an unfortunate article suggesting, on the basis of American press reports, that we ourselves are doubtful of the locus standi of the Secretary-General in issuing an appeal. I suggest that we might take the opportunity to make it clear that we are in no doubt on this point. Draft telegram attached.

(see also E3405)

J.G.S. Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)

24th April, 1947.

MB

25/iv

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Zion 71
USA

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION

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FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel
No: 2399

D. 7.59.p.m. 22nd April 1947

22nd April 1947

R. 3.20.a.m. 22nd April 1947

Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York

X:X:X:

IMMEDIATE

Secret.

Giant.

My telegram No: 2382.

Note to Secretary General of United Nations on illegal immigration. Acheson reverted to this question during conversation with Balfour this afternoon. Further points which he made were the possibility that the competence of the Secretary General to make such an appeal might be challenged and that a bitter controversy on the merits of Palestine immigration policy might thereby be occasioned.

2. For these reasons Acheson was strongly of the opinion that it would be better for His Majesty's Government themselves to address the Governments concerned as they had been doing in the past, and that they should not make any appeal through the medium of the United Nations, even after the special committee had been set up.

Acheson would say this.

g v B

All the more reason why we should press her once the committee is launched.

M. Beith
J.P.
24/4

Apr 23

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION

DISTRIBUTION

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel
No: 2599

D. 7.59. p.m. 22nd April 1947

22nd April 1947

R. 3.20. a.m. 22nd April 1947

Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York

X:X:X:

IMMEDIATE

E 3369
23 APR
E3321/48/71

Secret.

Giant.

My telegram No: 2582.

Note to Secretary General of United Nations on illegal immigration. Acheson reverted to this question during conversation with Balfour this afternoon. Further points which he made were the possibility that the competence of the Secretary General to make such an appeal might be challenged and that a bitter controversy on the merits of Palestine immigration policy might thereby be occasioned.

2. For these reasons Acheson was strongly of the opinion that it would be better for His Majesty's Government themselves to address the Governments concerned as they had been doing in the past, and that they should not make any appeal through the medium of the United Nations, even after the special committee had been set up.

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Registry
No.E 3369/48/31

J. G. S. B.

Draft.
U. K. Delegation,
New York.

Telegram.

No. . 1254

Dated. *April 25th*

Repeat to:
Washington

4057.

Cypher

World Organisation
Distribution.

*Seen by Mr Beeley
Co. Concur*

Copy to:

Colonial Office
(Mr. Trafford
Smith)

JB Apr 24

RJ

V 24/4

WJ 25/4

OUT FILE

25/4 April, 1947.

Despatched 3 45p M.

IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 1204 [of April 19th] and Washington telegrams Nos. 2382 and 2399 [of April 21st and 22nd: note to Secretary-General of United Nations on illegal immigration].

I agree that there is some substance *as stated in Washington tel. no. 2382* in Mr. Henderson's argument that the Secretary-General should not circularise member States until the Special Assembly *has met* ~~meets~~ but I know of no reason why this issue should be considered to be outside the competence of the Secretary-General, as suggested by Mr. Acheson.

2. You should therefore request Mr. Lie to take the action which Secretariat *Special Session ends.* had prepared as soon as the ~~Special Session ends.~~
3. *If you and Secretary General agree, it* ~~It~~ would also appear desirable to make it clear to the press in response to any enquiries that *there does not appear to be* ~~we are not in~~ any doubt as to the competence of the Secretary-General
in/

73

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO

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61805

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74

in this matter, as has been suggested in
~~Press~~ reports (see Washington tel.
No. 1242)

MB
28/iv

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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15-9

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E 3370

76

1947

PALESTINE

23 APR

Registry Number } E 3370/48/31
 TELEGRAM FROM
 No. M. Holman
 Dated Bucharest
 Received in Registry } H.19.
 22 April 1947
 23 - -

Illegal Immigration.
 State, reliable source reports recruitment
 for a large party of illegal immigrants
 into Palestine is going on in Bucharest.
 organized by Revisionist Organization
 only Revisionist sympathizers are
 being accepted.

Last Paper.

3369

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

4. Higham. P.O.
 Dodd
 Smith } admit
 Deane M.I.S.
 Farney
 April 26

(Action completed.)

J. E. M. 2/5

(Index.)

M. H. 1/4/48

Next Paper.

E 3377

(Minutes.)

Copy Co.

Adly.
M.15

} usual names

a revisionist

↓ B.A. 19.24

10. Apr. 28

~~Southern Dept.~~W. D. H.
1/5.

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References:

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61805

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman
No. 419

D. 1.08 p.m. 22nd April 1947
R. 3.50 p.m. 22nd April 1947

22nd April 1947

Repeated to British Middle East Office Cairo
Jerusalem

E 3370

c c c c c

23 APR

SECRET

A usually reliable source reports recruitment for a large party of illegal Jewish immigrants into Palestine is going on in Bucharest.

2. The body that apparently is organising it is the Revisionist Organisation and this time Revisionist sympathisers only are being accepted.

3. Jewish Agency is said to be anxious to prevent an influx of Revisionist sympathisers to the complete exclusion of their own adherents (Orthodox Zionists) and is reported to have intervened with the administrative section of Allied Control Commission [gp. undec.] to prevent the departure of these illegal immigrants.

Foreign Office please pass to British Middle East Office Cairo and Jerusalem as my telegrams Nos. 4 and 15. respectively.

[Repeated to British Middle East Office Cairo.
Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office
for repetition to Jerusalem]

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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<p>96 10 7</p> <p>E3377/48/C</p> <p>Lost Suvachap to ion 2397</p> <p>Dated 22 April Received 23 April.</p>	<p>Palentine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E3377 / G</p> <p>78</p>
<p>E3377/48/C</p> <p>Lost Suvachap to ion 2397</p> <p>Dated 22 April Received 23 April.</p>	<p>Legal immigration</p> <p>Refs to F.O. 100 (E3306/48/C)</p> <p>Reports interview between Mr Ralfous and Mr Acheson.</p>	
<p>Last Paper. E3338</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>Copm Co } M15 } usual names Adm. }</p>	
<p>References.</p>	<p>NA. Dept. 8/5</p> <p>Ms. Beint Apr. 24</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>Tel. W Gen 398 April 23.</p> <p>1) L. Both 10/8/7 Co. (Mr. Higham)</p> <p>2) L. A. W. Y M15 (Mr. Schest) Adm. (Mr. Dodds) April 30</p>	<p>A further tel: has now been sent to Washington on this subject (no: 398) in view of report (attached) in the News Chronicle / 23rd April.</p> <p>RJ 24/4</p>	
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>24 8/5</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>left.</p>	
<p>Next Paper. (E 4946) E3378</p>	<p>2888 F.O.P.</p>	

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NEWS CHRONICLE

Cuttis dated 23 APR 1947 £350 G

U.S. JEWS OPEN DRIVE FOR MEN AND GUNS

From STANLEY BURCH, News Chronicle Correspondent NEW YORK, Tuesday.

WITH the Mayor of New York, Irish-born William O'Dwyer, calling for "unlimited" Jewish immigration into Palestine, a Jewish drive to raise nearly £2,000,000 was opened in America today for the attainment of a Free Palestine.

The fund has been proclaimed as a "drive for men, ships, guns and money."

The organisers have promised to get £250,000 into Palestine to aid underground resistance before July 4.

Launching this drive the American League for a Free Palestine says £750,000 will be used for buying ships to run Jews through the British blockade into the Holy Land, a similar amount will go to medical and relief supplies for Palestine underground fighters, and the remainder will be earmarked for the establishment of a "provisional Government for Palestine."

Speaking at the opening of the drive, Mr. Ben Hecht, the author, denounced the British blockade as "piracy," British officials as "rascals and hypocrites," and executions in Palestine as "lynchings."

"Your blood"

At a mass meeting of 3,000 militant Zionists young American Jews were called on to join the resistance movement in Palestine. "We need your blood," they were told.

A full-scale Arab-Jewish clash is certain at next week's Assembly of UNO.

Both the Egyptian and Syrian Governments have asked the Assembly to discuss the immediate ending of the British Mandate and the establishment of an independent Palestine. The Jewish Agency (the U.S. branch of the Palestine organisation) says it will call on the Assembly for fulfilment of the Jewish National home.

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

E3378/48/31

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Reference: **FO** *371* / *61805*

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<p>98 1947 31</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E3349 / G 83 23 APR 1947</p>
<p>E 3349/48/9. Athens 165 Dated 16 April Received 23 April</p>	<p>Illegal &ewish immigrants Refo Athens des 148 (E3069/48/9) The copy correspondence with H. Taldaris regarding illegal immigrants.</p>	
<p>Last Paper. E3348 (E3219)</p>	<p>(Minutes.) Copy CO.) M15) rke.</p>	
<p>References.</p>	<p>Southern Dept 29/4 29/4 J.D. Apr. 24</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of.) 8) CO M15 ✓ 25 April</p>		
<p>(Action completed.) M 30/4</p>	<p>(Index.) W.H.</p>	
<p>Next Paper. E 3420 (E3632)</p>		

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No. 165
(46/86/47)

E

84

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Athens
presents his compliments to
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British Embassy.....

.....Athens.....

.....Greece.....

23 APR 1947

Reference to previous correspondence: *Elyne* 16th April....., 1947.....

Athens P/L 148 of April 1st

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note to Monsieur C. Tsaldaris. 16th April 1947	Illegal Jewish Immigrants
Copy of letter from Monsieur C. Tsaldaris 3rd April 1947	

1	2	3	4	5	6
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61805

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BRITISH EMBASSY
ATHENS

No. 146
HS/86/47

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Note No. 22834 which Your Excellency was so good as to address to me on the 3rd April about the flow of illegal Jewish immigrants into Palestine. I have not failed to convey to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom the assurance contained in Your Excellency's Note that the Royal Hellenic Government intend to do all in their power to prevent this traffic.

2. Your Excellency will recall that in paragraph 6 of my Note No. 127 of the 1st April I had the honour to request the Royal Hellenic Government to cancel the registration of three named vessels which His Majesty's Government have reason to believe to have been engaging in that traffic. I immigrants into Palestine. attach particular importance to the cancellation of the registration of these vessels and I should therefore be most grateful if Your Excellency could be so good as to inform me whether the Royal Government have now been able to take this action.

16th April. 1947.

His Excellency
Monsieur C. Tsaldaris

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COPY.

ROYAUME DE GRECE

Athènes, le 3 avril 1947.

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

No. 22834.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Je m'empresse d'accuser réception de la lettre sub No. 127 en date du 1er de ce mois que Votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser relativement à l'émigration clandestine de Juifs en Palestine et les moyens d'y parer, dont le contenu a reçu la plus sérieuse considération des autorités helléniques compétentes auxquelles ce Département n'a pas manqué d'en faire immédiatement la communication en vue d'un surcroît de vigilance. Ces dernières ne manqueront pas de prendre toutes les mesures en leur pouvoir afin qu'aucune imputation à ce sujet ne puisse leur être faite.

Je désire assurer de nouveau Votre Excellence que le Gouvernement Royal Hellénique n'est en aucune manière disposé à souffrir que des agissements d'individus sans scrupules puissent porter ombrage aux relations d'étroite amitié existant entre nos deux pays.

Je saisis cette occasion pour renouveler à Votre Excellence les assurances de ma très haute considération.

C. TSALDARIS

Son Excellence
 Sir Clifford Norton
 Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique
 etc. etc. etc.
 En Ville.

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Reference:

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61805

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163

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87

1947

PALESTINE

E 3389

24 APR

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E3389/48/31

Chancery

Bucharest

7/11/47

10 April 1947
24 - -

Illegal Immigration, Italy.
 Transmits copy of letter to Chancery Rome
 enclosing translation of letter written by
 Romanian Jew from the placshara at
 Bermano in Italy, who had been refused
 admission into camp near Simonsara, from
 which illegal immigrants to Palestine are
 passed over the frontier.

Last Paper.

3379

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

3390

(Minutes.)

Why afraid?

x 15 Apr. 25

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

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With the Compliments of Bucharest, Chancery.

To Eastern Dept.
Foreign Office

Office of the British
Political Representative,
Bucharest.

88

74/10/47

10th April, 1947

E 3389

Dear Chancery,

We think you may be interested in the enclosed translation of a letter written by a Roumanian Jew from the Hacshara at Ceriano in Italy. The writer was once a convinced Communist who joined the Tudor Vladimirescu division in 1944. Although soon disillusioned, he decided not to desert while the war continued, but afterwards went into hiding in Bucharest. Aided by the man who communicated to us the attached letter, he reached one of the two Jewish camps near Timisoara from which illegal emigrants to Palestine are passed over the frontier. He was refused by the Jewish authorities there, however, on the ground that he had taken no part in subversive Jewish activities.

2. As you may be aware, an Hacshara is a camp where Jewish emigrants to Palestine are assembled in Italy and usually given some political training. The writer of this letter now works in the Secretariat of the Hacshara and is studying medicine at the same time. Our source was unable to say whether or not the Hacshara was illegal. The letter however gives an interesting picture of the atmosphere of the camp and of the type of people in it.

3. We are sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to the Eastern Department.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Chancery,
British Embassy,
Rome.

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Reference:

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61805

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TRANSLATION

89

A storm is coming on, the wind is furious as if somebody were stamping on its corns. I am in a room surrounded by Marx' books, maps in disorder and a typewriter. It is what is called the Secretariat of a Hacshara. A dog is howling somewhere, a broken shutter on one of the windows beats against the wall with a dull sound whenever the wind blows. I have the impression that I am the hero of one of those badly written police novels just arrived to look for the murderer in a mysterious house.

My knowledge increases daily with unimaginable speed. I am afraid of bursting.

The Hacshara where I am is one of the few for Italian Jews. Situated very close to Lake Geriano, it consists of two blocks of houses in one of which is the administration, kitchen and dining room and in the other, of Baroque style, the dormitories. There is a field of potatoes and one of cabbages. That is about all. It is the first Hacshara in which I have seen people working, twenty men, boys and girls who, of their own free will, have left their homes, parents and schools and have come here to prepare themselves for Palestine. They all seem happy and everything they do seems to give them pleasure. That is one's first impression. If you look a little more intently you come to the conclusion that a great part of them have, perhaps only in their sub-consciousness, a real reason for coming here and that their decision to leave for Palestine was, in fact, a desperate one. The best representative of this type is a small girl with large, wild, black eyes. I think she is about 16 or 17 years old. She is so timid that I am afraid to ask her. To-day she washed her clothes for the first time in her life. I surprised her in a corner staring surprised at her swollen and red hands. This evening at dinner both were covered in grease. She suffers a lot on account of the food. This evening there was a coffee-coloured soup with a really sinister taste. She ate it all up to the last drop and I heard her saying to her friends in a cheerful tone "I think, after a month's trying, I shall succeed in eating two plates full". I am curious to know what her real reason for coming here is. I do not know Italian well enough to dare to begin a longer discussion with her. I am afraid of being rough and that would upset her.

A boy of 16 years, small, untidy and ugly, seems very funny to me. A ferocious Communist. He has read Marx and understood nothing. He has learnt by heart a few phrases which he uses without any sense of economy. When he saw me he asked me immediately what political colour I was. Unhesitatingly I replied "None". He looked at me sideways exclaiming "How is it possible". According to him neutral men should not exist. Afterwards, I explained to him that I found the theory very attractive and that it was once my ideal but that I had now reached the conclusion that man is a too egotistical animal to be a Communist. He made a face as if he didn't understand and turned his back on me.

Although all appear to live in harmony together, I have the impression that there is something forced, something unnatural among them. Apart from two or three sincere idealists who are fine types, the rest are not at all happy. Yesterday evening, I heard one of them saying "Every day that passes brings me more disillusionments about life in general and communal life". It is a mental process which I know very well. I ask myself sometimes why everything is so topsy turvy in this world.

There ...

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90

There is another girl of French origin, blond with blue eyes and blond hair. She loves music and writes quite good verse. "I feel music in every movement of nature" she said to me yesterday. We understand each other perfectly. I am afraid I might fall in love with her.

I type so slowly that it is now 12 o'clock. I am going to bed. I must get up at 6.30. I shudder when I think that to-morrow I must learn anatomy.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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E 3390

91

1947

PALESTINE

24 APR

Registry Number

E 3390/48/31

FROM

G.O. Browley

No.

Embassy

Dated

Paris.

Received in Registry

72/141/47

16 Apr 1947

24 -

Illegal Immigration.
Refer #0. Cts 570 & 571 (E 3113/48/31)
encloses memo based on tel 570 also note
concerning vessels recently used for illegal
immigration from French ports, both of
which were handed to M. Bouyquet, who expressed
himself as very satisfied with information and
agreed that point (c) was not to be emphasized.

Last Paper.

3389

(Minutes.)

10 May 5

References.

29/4

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/1. ~~dupl. P.O.~~

~~Dodds & Adanty
Smith~~

~~Letter M.15.~~

~~agreed
May 3~~

(Action completed.)

G. M. S. /

(Index.)

4/4/48

Next Paper.

3405

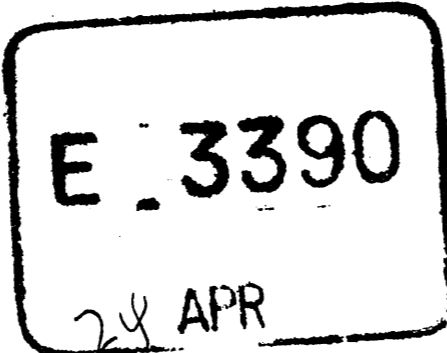
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References: FO 371 / 61805

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TOP SECRET

72/141/47.



British Embassy,

Paris.

16th April, 1947.

Dear Beith,

With reference to your telegrams 570 and 571 I enclose three copies of a memorandum based on your telegram 570 and of a note concerning the vessels recently used for illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine from French ports which I compiled from our files.

Both of these were handed by Ashley Clarke to Monsieur Bousquet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday. Monsieur Bousquet expressed himself as very satisfied with the information they contain and agreed, at Ashley Clarke's suggestion, that point (d) was one to be emphasized. Ashley Clarke pointed out that in the case of each of the vessels mentioned in our note there appeared to have been a contravention of the Safety of Life at Sea Convention. Monsieur Bousquet said that as the Minister of the Interior would not now be back in time for the Council of Ministers ~~therefore~~ Monsieur Teitgen was suggesting to Monsieur Ramadier that a restricted Council should be called, with officials present, at which the matter could be subjected to a thorough preliminary study. Monsieur Bousquet would attend and said that the conclusions reached at this preliminary meeting would almost certainly be accepted by the full Council of Ministers.

Monsieur Bousquet is now preparing a brief for Monsieur Teitgen which will be based in part on the information which we have just communicated.

I am writing separately about oil bunkers.

Yours ever,

G.A. Crossley.

G.A. Crossley.

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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(a) Conditions are at present tolerable in the Cyprus camps, but it must be realised that the congregation of large numbers of Jewish families, unused to camp life and discipline leads to a certain degree of discomfort and squalor, which the best efforts of the British authorities have been unable to prevent. A proportion of the immigrants have had to live in tents during the past winter, and it is not intended to construct any more huddled accommodation. Rations are on Army scale and quite adequate.

(b) At present 750 Jews are sent monthly to Palestine from Cyprus as an interim measure. This represents half the monthly immigration quota of 1,500, which has been in force since December 1945. This does not however mean that His Majesty's Government condone this traffic. The decision was only taken with great reluctance, as a result of representations from the Government of Cyprus that it was essential for the maintenance of order and morale both in the refugee camps and among the Cypriot population that there should be a clear indication that the camps were not permanent and that there was a gradual movement of individuals out of Cyprus. Indeed, conditions in the camps which made the decision necessary are a pressing reason why further over-crowding of continual refugees into the camps should be prevented.

(c) Organisers of illegal immigration traffic are responsible for the mental anguish of illegal immigrants who arrive in Palestine waters and are trans-shipped to the Cyprus camps. At present there are over 11,000 illegal immigrants in Cyprus and the GUARDIAN has just arrived in Palestine waters with about 2,500 on board. If this rate of arrival continues, there will be no hope of clearing the camps for years and some illegal immigrants may never reach Palestine, especially if the United Nations' decision does not allow of extensive further Jewish immigration into Palestine.

(d) The illegal immigration traffic results in most unfair discrimination against all those Jews throughout the world who are waiting to enter Palestine legally. Many poor and aged relations of settlers in Palestine are likely to be kept waiting for years as a result of illegal immigration.

(e) As regards the dangerous condition in which illegal immigration vessels arrive, it will be recalled that the ATHINAI ran aground on the Greek island of Syrina last winter and H.M. Ships have often intercepted illegal immigrant ships (for example, the SAN FILIPO) in a sinking condition. It is only by great good fortune that no tragic accident has so far occurred, and this good fortune cannot be expected to hold. Both the GUARDIAN and SAN FILIPO (a ship of seventy years old, possessing no registration), amongst the most recent arrivals, had broken down before reaching Palestine waters. The SAN MIGUEL had also broken down before being intercepted, and the MERIGA or LA NEGEVE, a wooden caique of some 350 tons carrying 650 immigrants, arrived in Palestine waters with her wooden sides caved in near the gunwale.

2. The arrival of illegal immigrant ships in Palestine waters normally coincides with outbreaks of terrorism. The explosions in the Haifa Oil Depot occurred 60 minutes after the arrival of the SAN FILIPO. It is evident that the terrorists took advantage of the situation created by the arrival of these ships to carry out their outrages and to secure the support of the Jewish population. The French authorities, by failing to take measures against this traffic are thus/

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thus permitting a situation to develop which directly leads to internal disorder in a territory administered under a League of Nations mandate by their Ally.

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Vessels which have recently been used for
Illegal Jewish Immigration to Palestine

SAN FILIPPO (750 tons)

Panamanian Registry (withdrawn)

Seventy years old.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs were informed by our Note of 21st March that this vessel was in readiness at Marseilles. She got away with approximately 1,600 passengers on board and sent out distress signals on 30th March. She was found by the Royal Navy to have a heavy list and damaged engines. 700 of the passengers were trans-shipped on to mine sweepers and after pumping operations a destroyer towed the vessel, which would have otherwise undoubtedly sunk, to Haifa. The crew had abandoned the passengers to their fate.

MERICA (250-300 tons)

Arrived at Palestine on February 8th with 650 passengers from Sète ostensibly bound for Cuba.

Ex FRANCO and the name was again changed en route to LA NEVEVE

Wooden motor sailing vessel built 1875. Found on arrival to be in poor condition with sides caved in near the gunwale.

Italian flag. Registered Genoa.

Embarkation was supervised by the French police.

SAN MIGUEL (472 tons)

Arrived in Palestine on February 17th with 800 passengers from Sète.

Ex RUNNBERG and again changed its name en route to HELENE

The passengers were ostensibly destined for Cuba via Lisbon. The vessel broke down and had to be towed to Haifa.

The embarkation was supervised by the French Police.

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ABRIL (753 tons)

Arrived in Palestine on March 9th with 600 Jews from Port de Buc, ostensibly bound for South America.

Ex mine-sweeper SYTHERA.

Built in Germany in 1930. 170 feet long by 30 feet wide with 11 ft. 2 inches draught.

Honduras Registry.

The embarkation was made publicly.

GUARDIAN (1800 tons)

Renamed PUEBLO CORTES

Although the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were informed by our Note of 21st March that this vessel was in readiness at Marseilles she was able to leave and arrived at Palestine on 15th April with between 2,400 - 2,700 passengers from Sète. Ostensibly bound for Le Havre. She had broken down on the way.

Honduras Registry.

ULHA (800 tons)

Renamed HAIM ARLOSSOROF

Arrived off Haifa 28th February with 1,300 passengers.

Being laid up in Marseilles, this vessel left for Le Havre in ballast loaded 600 Jews in Sweden and came back to Le Havre where reporting inspector protested that she was carrying too many passengers for security. She was nevertheless able to leave and touched at La Ferouse, near Algiers, before proceeding to Palestine.

It will be noted that 700 additional passengers were taken on subsequently to the call at Le Havre.

The following vessels are in readiness at Marseilles:

ARCHANGELOS

PRESIDENT WHARFIELD.

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E 3405

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1947

PALESTINE

24 APR

Registry Number } E3405/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

U.K. Del.

No.

New York.

Dated

Received in Registry

1242

23 April 1947

24 - -

Illegal Immigration

Refer to Lon tel 2399 (E3369/48/31) stated
 Assistant has agreed to hold up action
 pending further communication. Meanwhile
 substance of note to Sec Gen has become
 known to press, and there are some grounds
 for suspicion that Staff Dept. are responsible
 for leakage.

Last Paper.

3390

(Minutes.)

References.

See E3369 - action

10 Apr. 24

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel New York.

1421.

May 13.

8, Trafford Lane

E.O.

✓ May 16

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

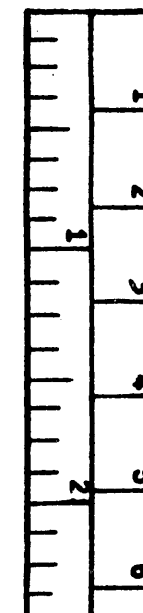
Gellert

9/7/48

Next Paper.

3406

32003 F.O.P.



Reference:

FO

371

61805

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98
E 3405

24 APR

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From Permanent United Kingdom Representative to United Nations)

No. 1242

D. 5.15 p.m. 23rd April 1947

23rd April 1947

R. 1.00 a.m. 24th April 1947

Repeated to Washington(Saving)

c c c c c

IMMEDIATE

GIANT

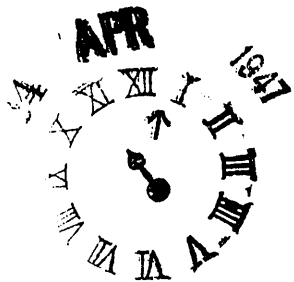
Washington telegram No. 2399 to you.

Illegal immigration into Palestine.

Secretariat have agreed to hold up action pending further communication from us. I presume you will send our instructions in due course.

2. Meanwhile, substance of my note to Secretary General has become known to press. Secretariat deny any responsibility. United Nations Press Division have not (repeat not) seen text and there are some grounds for suspicion that State Department are responsible for leakage.

3. You may care to know that in order to off-set possible negative impression of representations I included in note a passage on extent of legal immigration into Palestine based on Secretary of State's statement of March 25th.



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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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Registry
No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

I.
P.
G.

OUT FILE

99

F. O.,

194

Despatched 8 FOP M.

Draft.

Sir A. Cadogan
New York

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

Telegram.

No. 1421
(Date) May 13th

Repeat to :-

Washington
4757

Your telegram No. 1242 [of 23rd April :
illegal immigration into Palestine].

We have been wondering whether, in place
of a letter from the Secretary General to
the individual United Nations, it would now
be possible to go further and seek to secure
an Assembly recommendation calling on all the
United Nations to take all possible steps
to stop illegal immigration while the question
of Palestine is sub judice.

2. In justification of such a recommendation
we could claim

- (a) that immigration is the most contentious
of all the issues involved
- (b) that it is essential to avoid all
developments calculated to increase the
difficulty of solving the Palestine
problem.

Cypher

~~En Clair.~~
~~Code.~~
~~Cypher.~~

Distribution :-

Departmental No. 2

United Nations Dept
to see.

Colonial Office to
concur
Copies to :-

Mr. Trafford Smith
Colonial Office

3. You may however consider that the submission
of a draft recommendation on these lines to
the Special Session of the Assembly would be
likely to lead to an acrimonious and unprofitable
debate and that it would be better to stick to
our original intention of a circular letter on
the subject from the Secretary-General.

4. I have just received telegram from
the Ambassador, Rome, urging that it would
greatly strengthen hand of Italian Govt in
preventing ~~delays~~

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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References:

FO 371 / 61805

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100
delaying or preventing or at least delaying
departure of intended illegal immigrant
vessels, ^{and in particular} President Warfield,
if resolution could be passed in these
terms.

MZ
13/v.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK(To Permanent United Kingdom Representative
to the United Nations)No. 1421.

D. 8.40 p.m. 13th May, 1947.

15th May, 1947.

Repeated to Washington No. 4757

IMMEDIATE.CONFIDENTIAL.Your telegram No. 1242 [of 23rd April: illegal
immigration into Palestine].

We have been wondering whether, in place
of a letter from the Secretary General to the individual
United Nations, it would now be possible to go further
and seek to secure an Assembly recommendation calling
on all the United Nations to take all possible steps
to stop illegal immigration while the question of
Palestine is sub judice.

2. In justification of such a recommendation
we could claim:

- (a) that immigration is the most contentious
of all the issues involved
- (b) that it is essential to avoid all develop-
ments calculated to increase the difficulty
of solving the Palestine problem.

3. You may however consider that the submission
of a draft recommendation on these lines to the Special
Session of the Assembly would be likely to lead to an
acrimonious and unprofitable debate and that it would
be better to stick to our original intention of a
circular letter on the subject from the Secretary-General.

4. I have just received telegram from His
Majesty's Ambassador Rome, urging that it would greatly
strengthen hand of Italian Government in preventing
or at least delaying departure of intended illegal
immigrant vessels, and in particular President Warfield,
if resolution could be passed in these terms.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

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166

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 3406

24 APR

102

Registry Number } E3406/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

M. Holman

Dated

Bucharest.

Received in Registry }

420.

22 Apr 1947

24 - -

Illegal Immigration

Refer Bucharest tel 876 of 1946 (E 6789/4/31)
 State Pandelis is reported in Paris negotiating
 purchase of more ships intended for illegal
 immigration. Greek Embassy at Paris should
 be able to indicate his address and perhaps
 being prepared to hear on him, to divert from
 his activities.

Last Paper.

7405

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

5/ Higham P.O.
 Dodd Adams
 Smith -
 dekers M.I.S.
 Farney

✓ April 25
 P.70

(Action completed.)

9/26/47
 11/5/47

(Index.)

11/5/47
 11/5/47

Next Paper.

E3420

(Minutes.)

Tel. to Paris

D.S. Beant
 Apr. 25

Tel. sent

J.B. Apr. 25

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Reference:
 FO 371 / 61805

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NAME

103

Tel Paris
646
april 25

to Migden, P.O.
Dutch
Lunch } Identity
School over
Garvey.

✓ April
May 1

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12

Reference: **FO 371/61805**

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103 #

Cypher/OTP

E 3406

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman
No. 420
April 22nd, 1947.

D. 1.15 p.m. April 22nd, 1947.
R. 4.40 p.m. April 22nd, 1947.

Repeated to British Middle East Office Cairo
Jerusalem
Paris

SSSSS

SECRET

My telegram No. 876 of 1946. E 6777/1/31

Illegal Jewish immigration.

Pandelis is reported to be now in Paris negotiating purchase of more ships intended for illegal immigration to Palestine. The Greek Embassy at Paris should be able to indicate his address and perhaps to bring pressure to bear on him to desist from his active and important participation in organisation of carriage by sea of illegal immigrants.

Foreign Office please pass Cairo, Jerusalem and Paris as my telegrams Nos. 5, 16, and 3, respectively.

[Repeated to Cairo and Saving to Paris]

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem]

APR 24 1947

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Reference: FO 371 / 61805

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Registry
No. E 3406/48/31

J.G.S.B.

Draft.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Telegram

Paris.

No. 646

(Date) April 25th

Repeat to :-

~~En Clair.~~
~~Code.~~
Cypher.

Distribution :-
Departmental No. 1.

JB. Apr. 25

Copies to :-
Colonial Office.
Admiralty,
M.I.5.
(Usual names)

OUT FILE

F.O.,

104

26 April, 1947.
Despatched 3.40 P M.

SECRET

Bucharest telegram No. 420 /of April

22nd: Illegal Jewish immigration.

Please take this up strongly with your
Greek colleague and request him to do
everything he can to hinder the activities
of Pandelis.

Rg
V. 25/4

[Copy sent to H.E. Secretary]

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61805

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105
OUT FILE

E. 3406/48/31
Secret
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 646.

25th April 1947.

D. 3.40. p.m.
26th April 1947.

.....

SECRET

Bucharest telegram No. 420 [of April 22nd:
Illegal Jewish immigration].

Please take this up strongly with your
Greek colleague and request him to do every-
thing he can to hinder the activities of
Pandelis.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

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FO 371 / 61805

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Group *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61805*

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 3420 / 48 / 31

E 3423

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

61805

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169

E

106

E 3424

PALESTINE

25 APR

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 3424/48/31
 FROM Mr. Breach Jones
 No. Colonial
 Office
 Dated 21 April 1947
 Received in Registry 25

Illegal Immigration from France.
 To greatly concerned at length of time it
 is taking French Govt. to return some
 definite reply to request for discussions
 on ways and means of controlling illegal
 immigration to potential put to them by
 Prof Cooper on March 21.

Last Paper.

3423

(Minutes.)

B Apr 30

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dft. U.S. of S., C.O.
 April 28th.
 one

Tel. Paris 629.
 23 April

G. Higham
 Dodds
 Smith
 Scherr
 Farney April 29th.

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

G. Higham
 9/4/48

9/4/48

Next Paper.

3428

32003 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO

371

61805

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1. M/S
2 M. [unclear] [unclear]
E 3424
25 SECRET



RECEIVED
22 APR 1947
FOREIGN OFFICE
COLONIAL OFFICE,

DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

21st April, 1947.

*Perhaps we should direct a personal
Telegram immediately to the Ambassador
and then to the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]*

*Perhaps we should draft a [unclear]
which immediately [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
with a C9 [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]*

I am greatly concerned at the length of time it is taking the French Government to return some definite reply to the request for discussions on ways and means of controlling illegal immigration to Palestine which was put to them by Duff Cooper on the 21st March. Paris despatch No. 274 refers. I quite realise how warily the French Cabinet have to tread on controversial matters at present but they can be in no doubt, after the Foreign Secretary's personal approach to M. Bidault, of the importance we attach to the matter. If they will ever be ready to help us over it, they should be prepared to do so quickly. I hope, therefore, that you will find some way whereby further and effective pressure can be brought to bear on the French to agree to the immediate opening of discussions.

As you will know, the "PRESIDENT WARFIELD", a ship flying the Honduran flag which has recently arrived at Marseilles from the United States, is reported to have a capacity of 5,000 passengers. I am anxious that, quite apart from the discussions with the French, the strongest possible action should be taken to prevent the departure of this ship either by administrative delay, by denial of bunkers, by action under the Safety at Sea Convention or by any other means, and I trust that the Ambassador will make the most intensive efforts to achieve satisfaction from the French in this particular case.

You will of course be aware of the strong feelings expressed by the Defence Committee on this subject at their meeting on the 16th April.

Law [unclear]

Green Jones

The Rt.Hon. Hector McNeil, MP.

ented
107

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft. J.G.S.B.

Colonial Secretary

(From Minister of State)

Copy of tel. to Paris

Mr Rob

2 drafts

*J.G.S. Beith
Apr. 23
(BEITH)*

*RQ
V23/4*

25 108
+ DC
28 April, 1947.

My dear Arthur,

On receipt of your letter of April 21st about Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine through France, I **sent** ~~despatched~~ ^{the} a personal message to our Ambassador at Paris, of which a copy is enclosed. Our latest information is that the French Council of Ministers were due to consider ^a reply to our request for discussions on Monday the 21st April and we are expecting to hear at any moment what the terms of this reply are.

yours sincerely, *VMM* *24/4*
(Sgd.) Hector McNeill.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

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OUT FILE

28th April, 1947.

(E 3424/48/31)

SECRET.

My dear Arthur,

On receipt of your letter of 21st April about Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine through France. I sent the personal message to our Ambassador at Paris, of which a copy is enclosed. Our latest information is that the the French Council of Ministers were due to consider a reply to our request for discussions on Monday the 21st April and we are expecting to hear at any moment what the terms of this reply are.

yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Keelor McNeil.

The Right Honourable,
A. Creech Jones, Esq., M.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

Registry
No.

J.G.S.B.

Draft.
H.M. Ambassador,
Paris.

Telegram.

No. *629*

Dated. *April 23*

Cypher
Cabinet Dist.

th
April 23

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUT FILE

April, 1947.

110

Despatched 10.45 P.M. 3/4

Immediate
SECRET

Following from Minister of State
for Ambassador.

Defence Committee again considered
the problem of illegal immigration into
Palestine on April 16th and expressed great
concern at the continuing flow of illegal
immigrants from France. It is now
almost a month since you took this matter
up with the Acting Minister of Foreign
Affairs and we have not yet received a
reply to our request for discussions on
ways and means of preventing this traffic
through France. Nevertheless, the French
Government can be in no doubt as to the
importance we attach to the matter after
the Secretary of State's personal approach
to M. Bidault in Moscow.

2. The "President Warfield", now
lying at Marseilles, is reported to have a
capacity of 5,000 passengers. I trust
that you will continue to press the French
Government/

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

111

Government most strongly to enter into discussions with us on this whole question and in particular to prevent the departure of the above-mentioned ship, either by administrative delay, by the denial of bunkers, by action under the Safety at Sea Convention or indeed by any means open to them.

JVR
22/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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OUT FILE

112

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Cypher/OTP CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS.

No. 629

23rd April 1947.

D. 10.45 p.m. 23rd April 1947.

PPP

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Following from Minister of State for Ambassador.

Defence Committee again considered the problem of illegal immigration into Palestine on April 16th and expressed great concern at the continuing flow of illegal immigrants from France. It is now almost a month since you took this matter up with the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and we have not yet received a reply to our request for discussions on ways and means of preventing this traffic through France. Nevertheless, the French Government can be in no doubt as to the importance we attach to the matter after the Secretary of State's personal approach to M. Bidault in Moscow.

2. The "President Warfield" now lying at Marseilles, is reported to have a capacity of 5,000 passengers. I trust that you will continue to press the French Government most strongly to enter into discussions with us on this whole question and in particular to prevent the departure of the above-mentioned ship, either by administrative delay, by the denial of bunkers, by action under the Safety at Sea Convention or indeed by any means open to them.

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Reference:

FO

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61805

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Class *371*

Piece *61805*

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E3429/48/31
E3460

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Reference: **FO** *371* / *61805*

174

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 3462

26 APR

113

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E3462/48/31.

Embassy

Washington

984

124/147

21 April 1947

26

Illegal Immigration

Transmits copy of Aide Memoire
to State Dept dated 21 April,
re advertisements in certain newspapers
appealing for funds in support of illegal
immigration to Palestine, for which total
exemption was claimed under a Treasury
Dept ruling.

Last Paper.

3460

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ B.O.
April 30

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

25/6/47

12/4/48

Next Paper.

3480

(Minutes.)

Copy Co.

NA Dept
chat, 3/5
still pretty weak!

Has sent
Apr 29

PL
6/5/47

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Reference: FO 371 / 61805

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No. 984

G124/ /47

6
114

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Washington presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy

Washington, D. C.

..... 21st April, 1947

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of Aide Memoire to State Department dated 21st April 1947.	Illegal Immigration into Palestine. <div data-bbox="1177 1429 1599 1766" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> E 3462 26 APR </div>

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Reference:

FO

371

61805

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115
Ref: 9124/ /47

A I D E M E M O I R E

The Acting Secretary of State will remember that on a number of occasions during the last nine months representations have been made to the Department of State concerning advertisements in certain newspapers appealing for funds in support of illegal immigration to Palestine, for which tax exemption was claimed under a Treasury Department ruling. The Acting Secretary of State will also remember that representations were made in December 1946 concerning the ship "ABRIL", which was intercepted off Haifa on 8th March with a load of illegal immigrants. It was furthermore indicated informally to the State Department that reliable information had been received by this Embassy to the effect that the ex Chesapeake Bay ship "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" was destined for the same traffic and that two further ships, named "TRADE WINDS" and "NORTHLAND", were being fitted out in Baltimore for the same purpose. The "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" has since left and it is thought that the "TRADE WINDS" may also have left.

2. A number of extremist Zionist organizations in the United States are engaged in the support of these various activities, but it is not confined to such bodies. Lord Inverchapel wishes to draw Mr. Acheson's attention to a resolution adopted at a

/meeting

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

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meeting of the National Administrative Council of the Zionist Organization of America at Pittsburgh on the 2nd March under the presidency of Rabbi Silver. This resolution is reported to have stated that American Zionists would lend all their resources to continuing a never-ending flow of visa-less immigrants to Palestine in defiance of the British blockade.

3. The British Ambassador has been instructed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to enquire of the U.S. Government what action they propose to take to put an end to this unprecedented state of affairs in which U.S. nationals are doing everything in their power to prevent a friendly government from carrying out a Mandate entrusted to it by international agreement. Lord Inverchapel is also instructed to call particular attention to the resolution by the Zionist Organization of America already referred to. All these activities, the purpose of which is to a very large degree political, were started in an attempt to force the mandatory power to accept a solution of the problem favourable to one community only in Palestine, and thus to contravene the terms of the Mandate. In spite of the British Government's decision to refer the Palestine question to the United Nations, these

/activities

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

-3-

activities continue and are evidently aimed at presenting the United Nations with a fait accompli and so preventing that body from making recommendations for a solution based on the strict merits of the case. Their effect is to render impossible the allocation of the entire immigration quota into Palestine to the most deserving cases and to inflict loss of life amongst those whose duty it is to stop this traffic. The campaign can have no other effect than to worsen a situation which is already sufficiently difficult.

4. The State Department have indicated that they can find no legal means of preventing such activities. The State Department will realise that illegal immigration depends almost entirely on financial support received from the United States and that it is also coming to depend in an increasing degree on the provision of ships bought and fitted out in the United States with funds collected here. The Ambassador does not doubt that the United States Government share the desire of the British Government that the situation in Palestine should not be further worsened and that the United Nations should be in a position to devise a just and rapid solution of the problem based on careful consideration

/of

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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of the rights and views of all the communities in the country. Lord Inverchapel therefore urges most strongly that the United States Government should use every means at their disposal to put an end to these activities, the aim of which is to defeat the purposes of the Mandate and of the United Nations.

5. He would be glad to learn at an early date, as instructed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, what action the United States Government propose to take to this end.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
Washington, D.C.
21st April 1947.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

175

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 3480

26 APR

119

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 3480/48/31

Duff Cooper

Paris.

321

25 April 1947

26

Illegal Immigration
 Refuse 4.0. Tel 571 (E 3113/48/31)

Transmits substance of note dated 24 Apr
 received from Acting Minister for Foreign
 Affairs in reply to Paris note of 21.

Last Paper.

3462

References.

3946/48/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, digdam CV
 Dadds
 Smith } *Delant*
 Govey
 Palfrey MIS
 April 29
 P.T.O

(Action
completed.)

GMB/46

(Index)

M/4/46

Next Paper.

E 3481

(Minutes.)

This telegram was discussed at a meeting in the Minister of State's room on April 28th. The Minister of State emphasised the importance attached to this problem by the Cabinet and recommended that we should do what we could to meet the French points in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this telegram. He asked that the competent Department should consider what was the most favourable reply we could return to the French authorities on these points in order to secure their co-operation in checking the illegal immigrant traffic.

2. I am seeking the views of the Colonial Office on paragraph 4. I do not think that they will greatly mind how the quota available for the zones of Germany is distributed; they are concerned chiefly with the size of the quota itself. Paragraph 4 is not entirely clear, but I take it to mean that the total quota available for Palestine each month should be split up among the three western zones in proportion to the number of Jews in each zone desiring to enter Palestine.

3. I also attach a draft tel. to Paris on one or two points raised at the J.S. Beith M/S meeting.

J.G.S. Beith
 29th April, 1947.

Refugee Department
 German Department first
 (for obs.)

Tel. sent

RP
 29/4

now see
 E 3561/48/31
 penult - the para

As very few of the illegal emigrants come from our zones of Germany and Austria, where their numbers are less than a tenth of those in the corresponding U.S. zones, I think that we might agree with the French proposal in para. 3.

S2008 F.O.P.

(Winn)
 3/4
 A.W. Wilkinson 30
 A.W. Wilkinson 4

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Reference: FO 371/61805

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120 I agree that we should do our best to help the French in their interests. The authorities in Germany ~~W. K. L. H. H.~~ may object, to sharing their quota with the other zones, but I suggest that, in view of the small number involved, this would be more gained than lost.

W. K. L. H. H.
1/5

I agree, subject to the views of Berlin who should be consulted first. The question of German emigration is being dealt with separately.

W. K. L. H. H.
2/5

I have drafted a telegram to Berlin on the lines suggested above. I had hoped to clear the matter of principle with the Colonial Office before consulting Berlin, but it is now impossible to do this. Mr. Matheson, of the Colonial Office, tells me that his Secretary of State has directed him to write a paper on the whole question of the legal quota for Germany and that he cannot commit his Department until that paper is approved. It seems best, therefore, to send the attached telegram, in which the Colonial Office concurs, leaving the concurrence of both Berlin and the Colonial Office still to be secured.

If either side appear reluctant to agree, I suggest that we should take the matter up strongly again with them. I don't think the Colonial Office have much locus standi on the distribution of the quota in Germany and Berlin must in the last resort accept our directive in this matter.

B. U. May 20th.

NB the only thing which strikes in my quest is that the French suggestion, if accepted, will give the American zone the major part of the legal quota at a time when the Americans are in every way encountering illegal immigration. Could we not leave the U.S. zone out and make a private arrangement with the French?

NA Dept. to see
German Dept.

W. K. L. H. H.
May 6
Whit 1 (BEITH)

8) Cabinet Section
Admty. Room 72
✓
May 1.

Tel) Paris 672.
29. April.

9) Higham / C.O.
Voddo / Admty.
Smith /
Schen, H. I. S.
Garvey.
✓
May 1

Paris 321.

8) Mr. Matheson, C.O.
(Spec. Mess. 10-5)
✓
May 2.

Lt. Berlin
1395

Rptd Paris 730.
May 8.

J. J. Dist.

✓ May 12

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References:

FO 371 / 61805

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While I sympathise with Mr. Beith's view, I prefer the telegram as at present drafted. I think we risk putting ourselves in an awkward position if we try and limit the extension of our quota to the French Zone only. The French do not ask for it, and it may be that they would prefer to have the U.S. Zone included to forestall any pressure that might be put on them by the U.S. Government or by unofficial bodies like the A.J.D.C.

I should have thought too that it was hardly worth offering a handle for U.S. criticism for the sake of such a small total quota, when extension would give us a talking point with the Americans as well.

F. B. A. Rundall
 F. B. A. RUNDALL
 6th May, 1947

This I am afraid we must include the U.S. Zone.

*✓ Ad. 8/5
 German Dept.*

✓ agency (with draft)

8-5

*Tel. sent
 303 May 6*

Now see F. 3946

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Duff Cooper. D. 6.00 p.m. 25th April 1947.
No. 321 R. 9.9 p.m. 25th April 1947.

25th April 1947.

V V V

IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 571.

Jewish illegal immigration.

E 3480

26

APR

Following is substance of note dated 24th April received from Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs in reply to our note of 21st March.

a) France has always implemented international convention on safety of life at sea where vessels have left in a regular manner. Some vessels, however, (e.g. San Dimitrio) have embarked passengers irregularly and some (e.g. Ulua) have secretly picked up additional passengers after inspection in France.

b) French Government will strengthen control provided for in 1929 Convention, and will draw attention of Governments whose flags these ships fly, to the obligation of French Government to ensure strict carrying out of French law of 15th June 1933 and thus strengthen control of passengers' security. Consequently captains of all ships of nations having signed Convention will have to present to French authorities security certificates called for by Article 54. Vessels of signatory nations will be inspected and instructions to this end have been given concerning the Archangelos, President Warfield and Anal.

2. Prefects are being instructed not to give French British visas on collective passports before Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassies and Legations concerned have checked validity of visas of ultimate destination.

3. Before considering means of returning whence they came, foreigners having entered France illegally the French Government requires to make sure that territories concerned (mainly Western Zones of Germany and of Austria) will take them back. French Government

/therefore

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Reference:

FO

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61805

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therefore request guarantee from His Majesty's Government that British authorities in Germany will take such people back into British Zone. Similar request has been made to United States Government. French authorities in Germany and Austria will be approached.

4. French Government would be glad if His Majesty's Government would apply quota of immigration into Palestine in such a way that Foreigners at present residing in Germany and Austria receive visas in numbers proportionate to total number of would-be emigrants in each zone.

5. Above arrangements will be applied to all foreigners in France without distinction.

6. My comments will follow in separate telegram and text goes to you by bag.

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Reference:

FO

371

61805

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Registry
No. *E3480/48/31*

JGSB

Draft.

H.M. Ambassador,
Paris

Telegram.

No. *672*

Date *Apr 29.*

Cypher

~~Confidential~~

Cabinet distribution

Co. Concurs

OUT FILE

124

29/4

Despatched 8 50P M.

~~IMPORTANT~~
SECRET

Your tel. No. 321 [of April 25th:
Jewish illegal immigration] *para. 1 (a).*

Would you say that *applied*
~~Did~~ the French authorities ~~apply~~ the

Safety of Life at Sea Convention in the case
of the "Guardian" *of 1800 tons* which apparently loaded

2,500 passengers quite openly at Sete?

Please report what visas were held by the
passengers.

2. As regards your paragraph 2, *please* ~~you should~~

endeavour to establish that the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs will check up with *H.M. Embassy* ~~you~~ as well as
with the representative of the country of
ultimate destination on the validity of the
visas produced by departing groups of Jews.

3. We propose to send ~~three~~ four
experts to attend the discussions with the
French authorities which M. Bousquet has
agreed to hold. There would be a
representative of the Colonial Office, ~~the~~
the Government of Palestine, the Foreign

Office/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO

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ps

the intelligence authorities
Office and possibly ~~M.I.5~~. Please let
us know as soon as possible on what date
discussions could open. Our experts
could be ready by May 5th.

SEP
29/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

Registry
No. E 3480/48/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential
Restricted.
Open.

J. G. S. B.

Draft.
Berlin.

Telegram.

No. 1395

(Date) May 8

Repeat to —

Paris 730.
(no priority)

✓ W. 8/5
German Dept. mit
8-7

CD. Conew
JD May 7

Ex. Cloak.
Codex
Cypher.

Distribution: Cabinet

Illegal Immi-
gration Dist.
to be carried out by
E. Divn.

Copies to: —

OUT FILE

126

F. O.,

8 May 1947.

Despatched 8.20 P. M.

IMMEDIATE

Secret.

You will be aware that we have been discussing with the French authorities ways and means of controlling the flow of Jewish illegal immigrants to Palestine through France. The French authorities have asked us, in return for increased co-operation on their side, to give them the following assurances:—

(a) that the British Zones of Germany and Austria will take back foreigners entering France illegally from those territories;

(b) that H.M.G. will apply the ^{monthly} quota of ^{for Germany} immigration into Palestine in such a way that foreigners at present residing in Germany and Austria receive visas in numbers proportionate to the total number of would-be emigrants in each Zone.

2. At first examination, the French requests appear to be reasonable and I would propose to return a favourable answer to them in view of the importance which we attach to securing French co-operation in this matter. We recognise that ^(b) ~~this~~ will mean that the major part of the small quota for Palestine will go to the American Zone, but the numbers are ~~so~~ small in any case ^{and} ~~that~~ there seems much to be said for adhering to the principle of fair distribution.

3.

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Reference:

FO

371

61805

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127

3. We should like to be in a position to give the French Govt. a reply on these points during the discussions on illegal immigration which are to be held in Paris ^{on} ~~next~~ ^{May 12th} ~~Monday~~. Please send your reply by immediate tel. and repeat it to Paris.

WMM 8/5

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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E. 5480/48/31.

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

SECRET

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BERLIN.

(To Political Adviser to Commander-in-Chief, Germany).

No. 1595.
8th May, 1947

D: 8.30 p.m. 8th May, 1947

Repeated to Paris No. 730.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

You will be aware that we have been discussing with the French authorities ways and means of controlling the flow of Jewish illegal immigrants to Palestine through France. The French authorities have asked us in return for increased co-operation on their side, to give them the following assurances:-

(a) that the British Zones of Germany and Austria will take back foreigners entering France illegally from those territories;

(b) that His Majesty's Government will apply the monthly quota of immigration into Palestine for Germany in such a way that foreigners at present residing in Germany and Austria receive visas in numbers proportionate to the total number of would-be emigrants in each Zone.

2. At first examination, the French requests appear to be reasonable and I would propose to return a favourable answer to them in view of the importance which we attach to securing French co-operation in this matter.

We

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

129

-2-

We recognise that (b) will mean that the major part of the small quota for Palestine will go to the American Zone, but the numbers are small in any case and there seems much to be said for adhering to the principle of fair distribution.

5. We should like to be in a position to give the French Government a reply on these points during the discussions on illegal immigration which are to be held in Paris on May 12th. Please send your reply by immediate telegram and repeat it to Paris.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

176

E

E 3481

130

PALESTINE

28 APR

Registry Number } E3481/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. *Deffoe*Dated *Paris*

Received in Registry } 324

25. Apr 1948
*28**Illegal Immigration*

Refer Paris tel 321 (E3480/48/31) Note, will see that note make no reference to reduction of quota, control of ships leaving in ballast or refusal of oil bunkers these were either refused by "order" of Ministry or (in last paragraph) not put up by Ministry on ground that it led to charge of acceptance.

Last Paper.

3480.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Higham. P.O.
Dodds
Smith & Adair
Garvey.
Papers M15
✓ April 29

(Action completed)

PCM 26

(Index)

10/4/48

Next Paper.

3482.

(Minutes.)

*See E3480 & minute**✓ German Dept.**B.S. Bevis*
*Apr 29**J.B. May 6*

A meeting was held here on 7th May, attended by Mr. Ashley Clarke, at which ~~the~~ the German labour problem was discussed. At the moment we are still trying to keep that problem separate from the control of illegal Jewish emigration, but realize that this may not be possible, in which case it may be necessary to get a ruling from the Secretary of State on the line to be taken. Meanwhile we are consulting Berlin (who in turn are to consult the Americans) on the German labour problem, in the hope that we may be able to satisfy the French in some way. I will keep Eastern Dept. informed.

J.P. Kirkman
*8/5**W.M. 8/5*

S2008 F.O.P.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Duff Cooper.
No. 324

D. 10.9 p.m. 25th April 1947.
R. 8.40 p.m. 26th April 1947.

25th April 1947.

V V V

IMMEDIATE.

RESTRICTED.

My telegram No. 321.

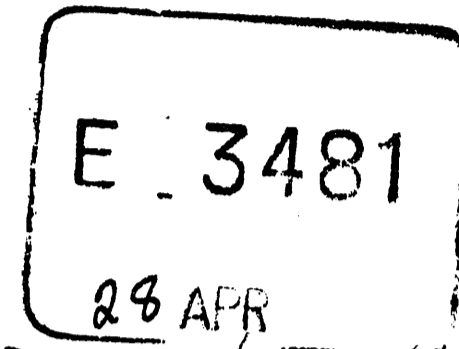
Illegal Jewish immigration.

You will see that note makes no reference to reduction of quota, control of ships leaving in ballast or refusal of oil bunkers. These were either refused by Council of Ministers or (in case of last mentioned) not put up by Ministry on the ground that it had no chance of acceptance. Nor does note speak of holding discussions with us.

2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs have however agreed to discuss matter with us and to consider any proposals we wish to press. They suggested that this question should also be discussed with our Delegation to the talks on displaced persons which are to be held here on 28th and 29th April.

3. M. Bousquet made it very clear to His Majesty's Minister that if we were to get anything more out of the French Government on this subject it would depend on our own willingness to discuss in a sympathetic manner French proposal for emigration of German labour from Germany. (See my immediately following telegram). This matter was vital for France and Ministry felt justified in appealing to spirit of alliance for a fair hearing from us just as we had done in respect of Jews. Minister for Foreign Affairs was in a minority in the Cabinet in desiring to meet us and needed some more ammunition with which to persuade his colleagues to reconsider it.

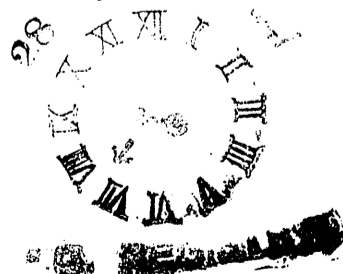
4. Although this form of reasoning may not altogether appeal to you I would draw your attention to the useful concessions which French Government have made especially in agreeing to check the authenticity of collective visas. It is also certain that Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs has fought hard for us and I have sent him message of appreciation. APR



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177

E

E 3482

132

28 APR

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E3482/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Duff Cooper

Dated

Paris

Received in Registry

327

25 Apr 1947

28

Illegal Immigration

Refer to Paris file 321-324/ (348/48/31)
State Ambassador has been away for some time
but Mr. Clarke has been pressing French
Govt hard. French Govt made effort to
meet us, and hopes that in discussion
we may make further progress.

Last Paper.

7481

(Minutes.)

See E3480 a minute

References.

Mr Rob

Mr. Bennett
Apr 29

JB May 6

(Print.)

This reached me to-day.

JM
30/5

(How disposed of.)

of dispatch - G.O.

Dodds }
Lenth } admit

Gorvey

Schenck M. 15
April 29

(Action completed)

10/6/46

(Index.)

10/4/48

Next Paper.

3496

32008 F.O.P.

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E. 133

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Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper D. 10.58 p.m. 25th April, 1947
No. 527

25th April, 1947 R. 2.15 a.m. 26th April, 1947

u u u u u

E 3482
24 APR

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Following for Minister of State from Ashley Clarke.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

Many thanks for your message. Ambassador has been away sick for some weeks but I have been pressing the French Government hard in his absence. You will see present position from my telegrams Nos. 521 and 524.

2. French Government have made an effort to meet us and I have some hope that in discussion we may make further progress. But, as you will know from our earlier telegrams there is stiff opposition on the part of Socialist members of the Government. I spoke strongly to the Prime Minister himself (who is a Socialist) when he dined to meet the Lord President on 21st April. I found him somewhat unresponsive.

3. I am glad that Secretary of State has authorised discussion of French proposal for emigration of German labour since this will help to create favourable atmosphere for further discussion of Jewish problem.

APR 26 1947
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF STATE
FOREIGN OFFICE

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Reference: FO 371 / 61805

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178

E

E 3496

134

28 APR

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E 3496/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

B.F.

Dated

Tunis.

Received in Registry

25.

Apr 25, 1948

- 28

Illegal Immigration
Holds British Visa Control SFAX leaves that 120 Jews are leaving SFAX for Algiers where they expect to embark shortly for Palestine.

ADDRESSED ALGIERS N.Y.

Last Paper.

3482

(Minutes.)

13 Apr-28

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Higham. P.O.
D. odds } Admalty
Smith }
debert M15.
Gorrey
✓ April 29

(Action completed.)

J.C. Moore/4

(Index.)

10/4/48

Next Paper.

E 3513

8208 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61805

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Cypher/OTP

E. DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1. 135

FROM TUNIS TO ALGIERS

His Majesty's Consul-General

No. 7
April 25th, 1947.

D. 7.15 p.m. April 25th, 1947.
R. 11.15 p.m. April 25th, 1947.

Repeated to FOREIGN OFFICE No. 25 (for communication to
Malta)

sssss

British Vice Consul Sfax learns from reliable source that 120 Jews are leaving Sfax for Algiers where they expect to embark shortly for Palestine.

2. Foreign Office please transmit to Beeswing Malta.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Malta]

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

APR 28 1947
MIDDLE EAST SECRETARIAT
Foreign Office
London

E 3496
28 APR

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

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100

1947

Palestine

EASTERN

E3513 / G

136

28 APR 1947

E 3513 / 48 / G

F.O. Minute:
Mr. Beckett.
April 25th.Illegal Immigration.

The Lord Chancellor states that the Royal Navy can legally seize a foreign ship on high seas in the Mediterranean carrying illegal immigrants, provided that the consent of the flag state has been obtained.

Last Paper.

E3420.

(Minutes.)

References.

The Lord Chancellor made it clear that his opinion concerned only the legal aspect of this case and that he assumed that a final decision regarding the actual arrest and diversion of illegal immigrant ships with the consent of the flag state would have to be taken by the Cabinet.

(Print.)

2. Before the matter goes to the Cabinet, Mr. Beckett may care to consider the point raised at the meeting in the Lord Chancellor's room whether the oral assurance given by the Honduranian M.F.A. that his Government would not object to the interception of vessels under the Honduranian flag suspected of being involved in the illegal immigrant traffic (see E.2879/48/G) is a sufficient basis for our action or whether our representatives should be told to secure written agreement in such cases.

J. G. S. Beith

J. G. S. Beith
29th April, 1947.

Mr. Evans (for Mr. Beckett).

I think that Tel No 12 in E2879 is sufficient provided that Mr Fowler makes a minute of his conversation with the MFA and sends the latter a copy for record and the MFA accepts the record. It is clear from the minute that either the MFA statement covers all ships on the Honduranian Register or at any rate the vessel named in para 3.

(How disposed of)
8) min by Mr Beckett
25 April

C.O.
Adly
13th May.
Tel) Tequeipa 12
30 April

8) Adly
CO
MS
2 May

(Action completed.)

25 1/2

(Index.)

6/17

Next Paper.

E3549
(E3943)

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

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137

? instruct Mr Fowler to act as indicated by Mr Beckett so that we may be covered if we decide to take action. Draft tel.

H.S. Bevis
Apr. 30

Attach tel. as sent and have fair copies (say 6) of Mr Beckett's minute made. Mr Beckett may wish to send a copy to the Lord Chancellor but the question is now dead (see Gen. 180 / 1st meeting)

Mr Evans / Mr Beckett
10/9/16

H.S. Bevis
May 3

The Colonial Secretary
has not seem to have
put up much fight
& the admirably home
got away with a hard
argument. We may
have requests in the
future & shall be
free to agree or refuse
when we give them.
We should probably agree
anyway as we did
in 1924 over liquor
smuggling.

No, indeed. It
was his
suggestion!

10/9/16

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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Minutes.

1 cplse

138/a

Eastern Department.

Illegal Immigration into Palestine.

At a meeting in his room this afternoon at which the Admiralty and the Colonial Office as well as the Foreign Office were represented, the Lord Chancellor expressed the opinion that, on the legal issues involved, H.M.G. should be safe against successful claims, if the Royal Navy seized a foreign ship on the high seas in the Mediterranean carrying illegal immigrants to Palestine, provided that the consent of the flag state had been obtained. The essential thing was that we should be able to prove that the flag state had given a consent which covered the seizure in the particular case. It was not necessary that there should be a treaty or even letters or exchanges of notes, but we must be confident that, if the matter were questioned afterwards, we could prove that the flag state had in fact consented to that seizure. So far as international governmental claims were concerned, the flag state was entitled, under international law, to seize its own ships on the high seas, and, by consenting to H.M.G. seizing the ship, the flag state put H.M.G. in its own position as regards this particular seizure. So far as private claims brought in the courts of this country were concerned, the defence of "act of state" should be successful, seeing that the act complained of would have been done outside British territory and in relation to persons who were not British subjects. Ships which had been removed from their registry should not be seized and we should cease urging governments to take these ships off their registers.

W. B. ...

25th April, 1947.

Cable to Admty & Co.

RG
12/5

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Reference: **FO 371/61805**

I have better copy 150 x c.
copy (clean copy) of the
159825

Nothing to be written in this Margin.

"act 16"

Eastern Department.

3 fair copies Minutes.

E 3513

Entered 1000 for
(Lancaster)

Illegal Immigration into Palestine.

139

28 APR 1947

At a meeting in his room this afternoon at which the Admiralty and the Colonial Office as well as the Foreign Office were represented, the Lord Chancellor expressed the opinion that, ~~so far as~~ legal issues were ~~concerned~~, H.M.G. should be safe against ~~rendering themselves open to~~ successful claims, if the Royal Navy seized a foreign ship on the high seas in the Mediterranean carrying illegal immigrants to Palestine, provided that the consent of the flag state had been obtained. The essential thing was that we should be able to prove that the flag state had given a consent which covered the seizure in the particular case. It was not necessary that there should be a treaty or even letters or exchanges of notes, but we must be confident that, if the matter were questioned afterwards, we could prove that the flag state had in fact consented to that seizure. So far as international governmental claims were concerned, the flag state was entitled, under international law, to seize its own ships on the high seas, and, by consenting to H.M.G. seizing the ship, the flag state put H.M.G. in its own position as regards this particular seizure. So far as private claims brought in the courts of this country were concerned, the defence of a 'flag state' should be successful, seeing that the act complained of would have been done outside British territory and in relation to persons who were not British subjects.

W. B. Smith

25th April, 1947.

Ships which had been removed from their registry should not be seized & we should cease urging ports to take these ships off their registers

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

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140

The Co. & Annually
should have copies
of the record of the
meeting with the
Lord Chancellor

I will send me
to Mr Nayell the
L.C.'s Secretary
telling him that
he has asked me to
make the record &
that the matter is
academic for the
moment as the
proposal has been
taken down for
reasons of policy
W.S.B.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

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Registry
No. E 3513/48/G

J.G.S.B.

Draft
Tegucigalpa.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Telegram.

No. . 12 .
Dated. April 30th

Cypher
Departmental No.
2

Copy to:
Admiralty
Colonial Office
M.I. 5.
(usual names)

IMPORTANT

Your telegram No. 12 [of April 2nd:
Jewish illegal immigration].

We may decide to take advantage of
the offer made by the Minister for
Foreign Affairs (paragraph 1 of your
telegram) and it is therefore desirable
to have a ~~written record~~ ^{confirmation of it} of this. If
you have not already done so, you should
make a record of your conversation and
send the Minister a copy for his
acceptance. Record should, if possible,
make it clear that the Minister for
Foreign Affairs' statement covers all
ships on the Honduran registry or,
failing that, the vessels named in
paragraph 3 of your telegram.

324
April, 1947.

Despatched 10 45 P.M.

141

RQ
V. 30/4

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

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E5513/48/G
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO TEGUCIGALPA

No. 12

30th April, 1947.

D. 10. 45 p.m. 30th April, 1947.

2 2 2 2

IMPORTANT

Your telegram No. 12 [of April 2nd: Jewish illegal immigration].

We may decide to take advantage of the offer made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs (paragraph 1 of your telegram) and it is therefore desirable to have confirmation of it. If you have not already done so, you should make a record of your conversation and send the Minister a copy for his acceptance. Record should, if possible make it clear that the Minister for Foreign Affairs' statement covers all ships on the Honduran registry or, failing that, the vessels named in paragraph 3 of your telegram.

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Reference:

FO

371

61805

C. O. S. (47) 57th Mtg of April 23rd.
48

8.

25 APR

PALESTINE - ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

3513 / Keep with pp 143
10/1/4

(Previous Reference: C.O.S. (47) 49th Mtg. Min. 1)

THE COMMITTEE took note of a letter from the Colonial Office agreeing that the responsibility for representing to the Ministry of Transport the case for the provision of ships for the transfer of illegal immigrants to Cyprus should be the responsibility of the Colonial Office, and giving an outline of the present position.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61895

E Keep with pp 144
C.O.S. (47) 58th Mtg of April 25th 1947

E3513/G

4. PALESTINE - ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
(Previous Reference: C.O.S. (47) 57th Meeting Minute 8).

In anticipation of instructions the War Office, in consultation with the Admiralty, have been invited to examine and report on a telegram from the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, reporting that the present available lift was inadequate for the transportation of illegal immigrants to Cyprus and that further shipping was therefore essential.

*(154/CCL)

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

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E3513/48/4

7. MAR 1947

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MINISTER

1211

You will remember that in C.P.(46) 434 I made proposals to the Cabinet that Commanding Officers of H.M. Ships should be given authority to arrest on the high seas certain specified categories of vessels suspected of carrying illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine. The Cabinet (Cabinet 104 (46), conclusion (5)), approved that the legal implications of this proposal should be discussed by the Lord Chancellor with the legal advisers of the Foreign Office and the Admiralty and finally, as a result of the Lord Chancellor's opinion, (C.P.(46) 463), I did not pursue the above proposals.

2. Since that time, we have been considering revised proposals strongly advocated by the Colonial Office and supported by the Foreign Office, to the effect that H.M. Ships should be authorised to arrest on the high seas any illegal immigrant ships either

- (a) whose flag state has agreed to interception
- (b) whose registration certificate has been withdrawn at our request.

3. We agreed that the opinion of the Lord Chancellor should be sought on the legality in international law of these proposals. Representatives of Departments have therefore been in consultation with the Lord Chancellor, and at a meeting with them on 25th April he gave his opinion that the proposal at (c) in paragraph 2 above would not be open to objection on the ground of illegality, but agreed that the proposal at (b) ought not to be pursued.

4. The Lord Chancellor made it clear that his opinion was one of law only and not of policy, on which a decision has still to be made. I need not bother you by setting out at length the arguments for this policy and the objections which were put forward by the Admiralty, with both of which you are well acquainted. Now that we have the Chancellor's ruling on the legal position, have I your permission to authorise the arrest on the high seas of illegal

/immigrant

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Reference:

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61805

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immigrant ships whose flag state has agreed to interception whenever the Naval Authorities on the spot are able to do so? Or would you prefer the matter to be considered again by the Cabinet.

5. The matter is one of some urgency, as should the proposal be approved, there is an exceptionally large immigrant ship, the PRESIDENT WARFIELD, which it is possible (though by no means certain) we may be able to intercept on the high seas.

6. I am sending copies of this minute to Jowitt, Alexander, Bevin and Creech Jones.

30th April, 1947.

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Group *Fo*

Class *371*

Piece *61805*

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

E3531/48/31

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Reference:

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E 3533 147

1947

PALESTINE

29 APR

Registry Number

E3533/48/31

FROM

Ekavany

No.

Washington

Dated

28 Sept.

Received in Registry

22 April 1947

29 - -

Illegal Immigration
transmit copy of letter 21/20/47 to
M/C Ferrel, enclosing story published
in newspaper 'PM' on April 20, by a
member of the crew of 'BEN HECHT'

Last Paper.

3531

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ B.O.

✓ May 3

(Action completed.)

9/10/47

(Index.)

10/10/47

Next Paper.

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(Minitiq.)

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15 Apr. 30

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Reference:

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E 3533/148
29 APR 47

*Forwarded with the Compliments
of the British Embassy,
Washington, D. C.*

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

22nd April 1947

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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149

22nd April 1947

Ref: 217/20/47

Dear Secretariat,

We enclose herein a story published in the newspaper "P.M." on April 20th by a member of the crew of the "BEN HECHT". You will see that a number of allegations are made against British troops, both on the ship itself and in Cyprus. This story may be brought up from time to time and any material which you could let us have refuting these accusations would be most helpful.

We are sending a copy of this letter to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Secretariat,
Office of the High Commissioner
for the United Kingdom,
Jerusalem.

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

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Reference:

FO

371

61805

'Ben Hecht' Purser Poses as Refugee, Tells of Life on Cyprus

MARVIN LIEBMAN
(Liebman, 24-year-old Brooklynite, was a member of the crew of the refugee ship Ben Hecht intercepted recently off Palestine)

by the British. He is a graduate of New Utrecht High School and attended New York University's School of Education, served with the Army Air Corps in Italy and Africa for two and a half years, is now a free lance writer but hopes to continue with repatriation work).

I have just returned from Cyprus.

I spent nearly four weeks in a British concentration camp as, in British terminology, an "illegal Jewish immigrant." I lived as one of these immigrants, and experienced their fears and hopes, their defeats and their triumphs.

I saw the mask of diplomacy and "correctness" stripped from the British to be replaced by something that was startlingly like the face of the people the refugees had been fighting only two years before.

For me the story started in October of last year when my mother received a letter from the only person who escaped the slaughter of the Jewish population of her home town in Poland. The letter described vividly how my aunts and uncles, in addition to hundreds of others Jews from that vicinity, were

made to dig their own graves and then were buried alive in them.

There was one line in his letter that I won't forget. He wrote, "The earth of Europe burns our feet."

I felt I had to do something constructive, something active. I went up to the American League For A Free Palestine and asked to be assigned to one of their ships engaged in transporting Jews from Europe to Palestine. I was assigned as purser on the Ben Hecht.

They Stood Straight, Their Eyes Shining

I had pictured these refugees as tired, old, and afraid. The first time I saw them I learned differently. We were at a port in southern Europe. On a brutally cold day toward the end of February the refugees arrived. They were grouped together, waiting to board the ship. They stood straight, their eyes shining with courage and faith in the future.

The ship was crowded and uncomfortable. We carried about 650 passengers. The crowded conditions, the discomfort didn't seem to matter to the people. They were happy. There was singing.

Spotted by British Planes

On March 9, at 9 a.m., one of the pregnant women on board began to have labor pains. A space was cleared for her on the crowded deck. She lay flat on her back, the sun beating down on her face. One of the doctors on the ship, a passenger, stood over her, waiting. At 10 a.m. two British warplanes zoomed over us. We were spotted! The passengers ran to the rails and raised their fists at the planes, weeping helpless tears of rage and disappointment.

At 11 a.m. two British destroyers came up and flanked our ship on both sides. We were 50 miles off the coast of Palestine. The British ships called to us over their loudspeakers: "We know you are carrying illegal immigrants. If you try to resist us we will not hesitate to use our guns."

Ship Tries to Make A Run for It

We had only one chance in a million to get away, but we tried it. We headed towards the coast of Palestine, planning to stay in international waters until night came, and then, under cover of darkness, make a run for the coast.

At 4:30 p.m., 13 miles off Palestine, still in international waters, the two destroyers caught us in a vise. About a hundred Royal Marines, armed with machine guns, hand grenades, tear gas bombs, bayonets and lead-tipped clubs, jumped over our rails. Some car-

ried machine guns. The people sat silently, staring their hatred at the soldiers. Finally, the silence was broken by a man who could speak a little English. He went up to the soldiers and said one word: "Why?" He was answered with a club to his head.

The people rose up as one and headed toward the soldiers. For a moment I thought that the British would fire. A young man, who fought as a partisan in the forests of Poland and Russia, shouted, "Not yet! Our day will come to fight. Wait until we have guns such as they. Our day will come, and we will not forget!" The people fell back and were silent once more.

Soldiers Use Clubs To Keep Lines Moving

At 7:30 that night we arrived in Haifa. Those who were to disembark first were allowed on deck.

I saw several hundred British soldiers on the dock waiting for us. When the soldiers came on board to remove the passengers, each of the refugees began to resist, silently.

Two British soldiers, of the Red Devil Commando division came up to me, said: "Get moving, you Jew!" I sat there. I was clubbed over the head and shoulders and carried down the gangway and thrown to the dock. We were forced to go through two lanes of British soldiers with the aid of their clubs. I was shoved into a long tent and ordered to strip. I was sprayed with DDT.

Lend-Lease Ship Used in Deportations

All my valuables, a watch, fountain pen, and money were taken from me. No receipt was given. I never saw them again. There was an old man next to me. He had a bushy gray beard, and in his arms he held his prayer book and prayer shawl. An English soldier grabbed them from his hands and threw them to the ground. When the old man stopped to pick them up, he was hit on the back and pushed along.

We were shoved out of the tent and onto the British ship, the Empire Rival, an American Liberty ship given to the British under lend-lease. We entered a large wire cage and were pushed down a flight of steep iron stairs to the hold below. There were approximately 200 crowded into the room.

Arrival in Cyprus, Behind Barbed Wire

We were forced to stand, as there was no room to sit. There was absolutely no ventilation. It was stifling hot. We stood in this room for two nights and a day. Hard biscuits were thrown down to us twice during the voyage, and weak tea was distributed once.

CONTINUED

To Cyprus

wire, was a prisoner of war camp, populated by captured German SS men. These men are used by the British to build the camps. They are good workers, having had plenty of experience in the building of concentration camps. As we drove in on the trucks, the Nazis laughed and shouted to us, taunting us.

My camp had about 3000 people in it. We lived in tin quonset huts. There were only enough cots for half of us. The rest slept on the ground. There was a kitchen for every 250 persons. The British gave us the food, and we prepared it ourselves. In the morning we had thin oatmeal without milk. For lunch there were potatoes. In the evening we ate black bread and weak tea. Two times a week we had an orange apiece.

Tanks Drive Through Massed Children

On Wednesday, Mar. 12, an incident occurred that should be told. I was there when it happened. Once a day the people are allowed to cross a road, guarded by barbed wire and armed British soldiers, to visit each others camps.

On this day, about 50 youngsters, mostly under the age of 15, went from my camp to the other camp to watch a soccer game between their team and the team from the other camp. Our camp won. At 4 p.m., still flushed with victory, the youngsters returned. They stopped in the middle of the road to cheer their team.

Several British soldiers went into the crowd, clubs swinging, ordering them back to the camp. The children refused to move. More came into the crowd until there were about 200 in all. Three British heavy tanks came up and rode through the massed children, driving them back to the camp. Several were injured, and one little boy had his foot crushed under the treads of a tank.

The children formed themselves behind the barbed wire and started to throw rocks at the tanks. Tear gas was thrown in to us. I saw several boys pick up the white-hot tear gas bombs and throw them back at the British.

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An order was given to fire. I heard the bullets and thought they were being fired over our heads as a warning. An eight-year-old girl, standing about three feet from me, bent over, and I saw blood spread over her chest. They were firing right into us. In all, five children were shot. The little girl died in a hospital two days later.

In all, I staged on Cyprus with these people for three weeks. At the end of this time I declared myself to be an American citizen. After a week of delay I was allowed to leave.

The people from my ship were gathered around the gate to bid

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Refugee, Tells of Life on Cyprus

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I heard the doctor shout that the pregnant woman could not be moved. I saw the British play the water on her until she was forced to crawl on her hands and knees below the deck.

Over 100 of us were crowded into a small room of the ship. Three British soldiers watched us with

leveled machine guns. The people sat silently, staring their hatred at the soldiers. Finally, the silence was broken by a man who could speak a little English. He went up to the soldiers and said one word: "Why?" He was answered with a club to his head.

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At 10 a.m., on Mar. 11, we arrived in Cyprus. We were loaded onto trucks and headed towards our new home, Special Camp No. 66, Cyprus. On the way I saw the Greek natives of Cyprus calling to us. Later I learned that they cried, "Death to the British Empire!"

And so we arrived to start our new lives behind British barbed wire. Situated right next to our camp, separated only by barbed

wire, was a prisoner of war camp, populated by captured German SS men. These men are used by the British to build the camps. They are good workers, having had plenty of experience in the building of concentration camps. As we drove in on the trucks, the Nazis laughed and shouted to us, taunting us.

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In all, I staged on Cyprus with these people for three weeks. At the end of this time I declared myself to be an American citizen. After a week of delay I was allowed to leave.

The people from my ship were gathered around the gate to bid me farewell. A committee of three came up to me to speak for the rest. They shook my hand and kissed me.

"Tell them in America of what you saw," they said. "Tell them that we appreciate the clothes, and the food, and the money they have sent us in the past, but tell them that we don't want these things. We want only to go to Eretz, to Palestine. That is our life."

MORE

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E

E 3534

152

1947

PALESTINE

29 APR

Registry Number	E3534/48/31	Illegal Immigrants in Italy
FROM	Dudley Ward	Refer #0. letter of April 16 (E2716/48/31)
No.	UNRRA	re case of Jewish refugees in Italy
Dated	05. 16/9	State that this subject was discussed at length - Rome on April 7 between HM Ambassador and Sir George Herdell as the only aide and executor Gen. who UNRRA chief of mission in Italy himself and others.
Received in Registry	24 April 1947	
	29 - -	

Last Paper.

35-33

(Minutes.)

See E3247 and action

References.

Refugee Dept.
Mr Edward WarnerDrs. Smith
May 3

(Print.)

Mr Ward does not state what directives specify that UNRRA aid shall only be given to Jewish post-hostility refugees. We have no record of any such discriminatory measure. It might be useful to press UNRRA for chapters and verse of these directives.

A.W. Wilkinson
A.W. WILKINSON

(How disposed of.)

Already taken on
WR PR. Austin 23/5
Will Refugee Dept take this action?

(Action completed.)

G.P. 27/1

(Index)

10/2/47

Next Paper.

35-35

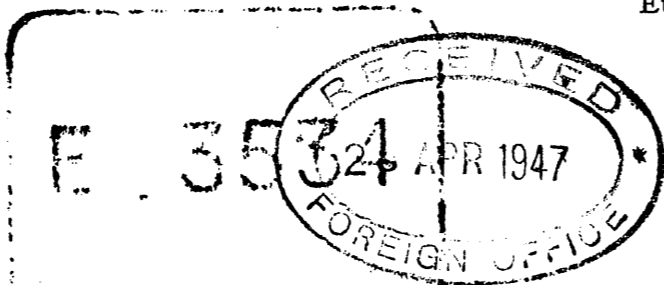
32003 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61805					

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Telephone:
LANGHAM 3090

DS.16/9



UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION,
EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE,
11, PORTLAND PLACE,
LONDON, W.1.
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

29 APR

Dear Mr. Michael,

Sir Noel 24 April 1947.

In the absence of Sir Humfrey it falls to me to answer your letter to him of 16th April concerning the care of Jewish refugees in Italy.

I should say that this subject was discussed at length in Rome on 7th April between H.M. Ambassador and Sir George Rendel on the one side and the Director General, Sir Humfrey, the U.N.R.R.A. Chief of Mission in Italy and myself on the other.

As was explained to Sir Noel Charles the Administration, under its present directives, which have been laid before the Central Committee and the Council, accepts for care and maintenance refugees of Jewish faith although these may have left their country of origin at a date subsequent to the cessation of hostilities. The responsibility for the control of movement of such refugees between different countries, however, lies, not with the Administration but with the Governments of the territories whose frontiers they may cross, or in the case of occupied territories, of the Allied Military Authorities.

Sir Noel Charles was informed that the Administration would be grateful for evidence of assistance given by representatives of U.N.R.R.A. in encouraging the movement of Jewish illegal immigrants to Palestine and I understand that the U.N.R.R.A. Chief of Mission in Italy is now awaiting the information which Sir Noel has undertaken to provide.

Sir Noel was further informed that, should the Italian Government institute a frontier control over displaced persons and refugees entering its territories, the Administration would be prepared to co-operate by reporting to the Italian authorities any displaced persons or refugees received in its camps who were not provided with the requisite Government entry or residence permits. It would be for the Italian Government then to decide what action they wished to take regarding such categories.

I should add that the difficulties of the Italian Government in this matter would be materially relieved if the Allied Military Authorities in the Zones contiguous to the Italian frontiers exercised a more stringent control over the movements to which you / refer.

Yours sincerely,
Dudley Ward

The Right Hon. Hector McNeil, P.C., M.P.,
Minister of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

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*delete as necessary

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Reference: **FO** *371* / *61805*

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E 3536

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1947

PALESTINE

29 APR

Registry Number } E 3136/48/31
 FROM I. Higham
 No. E.O.
 Dated to Mr Beeth
 Received in Registry } 76021/40/47
 26 April 1947
 29

Annul of Jews by Greek Authorities.
 Re: P.O. 1161 (E 1807/48/9) re: annul
 Jews annul by Greek Authorities from
 the ship "ADIA" documents views of
 colonial office on letter from Athens
 of 21 Feb.

Last Paper.

3535

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. Phavery
 action
 from Dept.
 (Secret) May 12

(Action completed.)

[Signature]
10/9/48

(Index.)

[Signature]
10/9/48

Next Paper.

3538

Draft to Athens & Phavery in reply to their letter of 21st Feb (E 1807) attached. *[Signature]*
 (Minutes.)
 (SECRET)
 6/5

JD mm 6

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 Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

E 3538

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

76021/46A/47

29 APR

26 April, 1947.

Dear Beith,

I understand from Fitzgerald that you wished to have our views on the letter from British Embassy, Athens of 21st February (your reference E.1807/48/G) on the subject of nine Jews arrested by the Greek authorities from the ship "Ada". From the circumstances of that case and other information it appears that the Jews in question were in fact connected with the illegal immigration organisation and that considerable dismay was caused to their friends and themselves by the arrests. The "Ada" has long been suspect as a contact ship between the various illegal posts in the Mediterranean but has not itself attempted to land immigrants on the coast of Palestine. I understand from Scherr at M.I.5 that nothing has been heard of its activities for the past months, and perhaps its owners have taken fright after the arrests.

It appears from the Embassy letter that there are no legal grounds in Greece for detaining the organisers of illegal immigration into Palestine who otherwise commit no offence: and this position, which confronts us throughout Europe and America, must unfortunately be accepted. Also even if such a course were legally possible, we doubt if there would be any advantage in having Jews suspected prima facie of attempting to enter Palestine illegally handed over to us. Since our main concern is to

/stop

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

enter 155

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Reference:

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RECEIVED IN C.B.
 28 APR 1947
 SENT TO DEPT.

stop the sailing of illegal immigrants ships from European ports, it might perhaps be best to confine our representations to the Greek Government to the cases of suspect ships asking for the cancellation of their registry and if necessary a ban on their sailing, and to any suspicious movement of Jews in Greece that may occur. The fact that no illegal ship has sailed from a Greek port since the "Henriette Szold" in July 1946 and dismay caused by the "Ada" incident tend to show that the organisers of the traffic are turning their main efforts towards other countries than Greece.

John D. Higham

(J. D. HIGHAM)

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Reference:

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12 May 1947. 157

OUT FILE

Registry
No. E 3536/48/31
J. E. C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

Chancery,
Athens.(From Eastern
Department)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Dear Chancery,

We are sorry not to have been able to reply before to your letter (46/49/47) of the 21st February about Jewish illegal immigration to Palestine and, ~~in particular,~~ ^{about and} the subject of the 9 Jews arrested by the Greek authorities from the ship "Ada".

~~From the circumstances of that case and other information it appears that~~ ^{there seems no doubt} the Jews in question were in fact connected with the illegal immigration ~~organisation~~ ^{traffic} and that considerable dismay was caused to their friends and themselves by the arrests. The "Ada" has long been suspected as a contact ship between the various illegal posts in the Mediterranean, but has not itself ~~been used~~ ^{attempted} to land immigrants on the coast of Palestine. We understand from a confidential source that nothing has been heard of ~~its~~ ^{her} activities for several months; ~~and~~ ^{her} perhaps ~~its~~ ^{her} owners have taken fright after the arrests.

We quite appreciate that ~~there~~ are no legal grounds in Greece for detaining the organisers of ~~illegal immigration into~~ ^{this traffic} Palestine who ~~otherwise~~ ^{do} commit no offence. This position, which confronts us throughout Europe and America, must unfortunately be accepted. Even if such a course were legally possible, we doubt ~~it~~ ^{if} there would be any advantage in having ~~Jews~~ ^{who are} suspected prima facie of attempting ~~to enter~~ ^{illegally} Palestine ~~illegally~~ handed over to us.

Our principal ^{al} object is to prevent the sailing/

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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sailing of illegal immigrant ships from European ports. We suggest, therefore, that your representations to the Greek Government should bear upon suspect ships rather than individuals and should request the cancellation of Greek registry (where applicable) and the prohibition of their sailing. Our dispatch No. 280 of 10th May contains detailed suggestions as to the legal basis of such representations. The fact that no illegal ship has sailed from a Greek port since the "Henriette Szold" in July, 1946 and the dismay caused by the "Ada" incident tends to show that the organisers of the traffic are ~~turning their main efforts~~ ^{not at present concentrating} ~~towards other countries than Greece~~ ^{on} ~~through their~~ ^{may be using a number of Greek ships!} Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

JB May 6

what refer

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61805

OUT FILE

159

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

12th May, 1947.

(E 3536/48/31)

SECRET

Dear Chancery,

We are sorry not to have been able to reply before to your letter (46/49/47) of the 21st February about Jewish illegal immigration to Palestine and the 9 Jews arrested by the Greek authorities from the ship "Ada". There seems no doubt the Jews in question were in fact connected with the illegal immigration traffic and that considerable dismay was caused to their friends and themselves by the arrests. The "Ada" has long been suspect as a contact ship between the various illegal posts in the Mediterranean, but has not itself been used to land immigrants on the coast of Palestine. We understand from a confidential source that nothing has been heard of her for several months; perhaps her owners have taken fright after the arrests.

We quite appreciate that there are no legal grounds in Greece for detaining the organisers of their traffic who commit no other offence. This position, which confronts us throughout Europe and America, must unfortunately be accepted. Even if such a course were legally possible, we doubt if there would be any advantage in having Jews who are suspected prima facie of attempting illegally to enter Palestine handed over to us.

Our principal object is to prevent the sailing of illegal immigrant ships from European ports. We suggest, therefore, that your representations to the Greek Government should bear upon suspect ships

rather/

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Athens.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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rather than individuals and should request the cancellation of Greek registry (where applicable) and the prohibition of their sailing. Our despatch No. 280 of 10th May contains detailed suggestions as to the legal basis of such representations. The fact that no illegal ship has sailed from a Greek port since the "Henriette Szold" in July, 1946 tends to show that the organisers of the traffic are not at present concentrating on Greece though they may be using a number of Greek ships.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

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E 3538

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1947

PALESTINE

29 APR

Registry Number } E3538/48/31
 FROM J. Higham
 No. B.O.
 to Mr. Beich
 Dated 76021/46A/47
 Received in Registry 26 April 1947

Illegal Immigrants in Italy
 Refer to letter to Quincy (E2716/48/21)
 State in Rome tel 756 for head of Italian
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the
 inadequacy of the Italian police force
 makes proper surveillance of Jewish illegal
 movements impossible, suggests that
 attention be drawn to certain specific areas.

Last Paper.
 3536

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. Channing
 Rome
 ✓ May 5

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Initials.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

3539

(Minutes.)

Forward draft letter to Rome Channing [Signature]

(C.F. CABLE)

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61805

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E 3538
29 APR

Colonial Office,
Downing Street, E
S.W. 1.

26 April, 1947.

76021/46A/47

Dear Beith,

Please refer to your letter E.2716/48/31 addressed to Ivimy, a copy of which was sent to me, and the enclosed telegrams from His Majesty's Ambassador, Rome. In Ambassador's telegram No.756 we notice that the Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the inadequacy of the Italian police force makes proper surveillance of Jewish illegal movements impossible. In these circumstances it may perhaps be of assistance if the Italian authorities' attention were to be directed towards certain specific areas which are thought to be used for the traffic. I understand from Scherr at M.I.5 that Camps maintained for Jewish migrants at the following places are suspected on very good grounds of being staging or embarkation posts for illegal immigrants: the Camps at Bari, Brindisi, Ostia, and Cinnicitta, near Civita Vecchia.

No doubt the existence of these Camps is already well known to the Italian authorities but a particularly close watch upon movements in them and the adjacent posts might perhaps hinder the illegal organisation's plans for the summer months.

The Italian authorities might also be urged, if you see no objection, to place under surveillance the ship "Vrissi" (ex-Lady Vagrant) of 440 G.R.T. which

/is

J. G. S. BEITH, ESQ.

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20 APR 1947
SENT TO DEPT.

is at present lying in Genoa Harbour under the Italian flag. This ship was recently sold to an Italian named Ravano, a colleague of D'Andrias, and is strongly suspect of being destined for the illegal traffic.

We would be grateful to know of your views on the possibility of taking useful action along the lines indicated above.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Scherr at M.I.5 and Dodds at the Admiralty.

Yours sincerely,

John Higham

(J. D. HIGHAM)

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Reference:

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Registry
No. E 3538/48/31
J.E.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

The Chancery,
Rome.

From:
Eastern Department

OUT FILE

IMMEDIATE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 164
5th May, 1947.

Dear Chancery,

Please refer to your telegram No. 756 in which you reported that the Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had complained that the inadequacy of the Italian Police Force made proper surveillance of Jewish illegal movements impossible. In these circumstances it ~~may~~ ^{might} perhaps be of assistance if the Italian authorities' attention were to be directed towards certain specific areas which are thought to be used for the traffic.

2. We have received information from a confidential source that camps maintained for Jewish immigrants at the following places are suspected on very good grounds of being staging or embarkation posts for illegal immigrants: ~~the camps at~~ Bari, Brindisi, Ostia, and ~~Civitavecchia~~ ^{near} Civitavecchia. CIVITA VECCHIA.

3. No doubt the existence of these camps is already well known to ^{you and to} the Italian authorities but a particularly close watch upon movements in them and the adjacent posts might perhaps hinder the illegal organisations' plans for the summer months.

4. The Italian authorities might also be urged, if you ~~see no objection,~~ ^{have not already done so} to place under surveillance the ship "Vrissi" (ex LADY VAGRANT) of 440 G.R.T. which is at present lying in Genoa Harbour under the Italian flag. This ship was recently sold to an Italian named Ravano, a colleague of D'Andria, and is strongly suspected of being destined for the illegal traffic.

Yours ever,

J.B. May 15 Eastern Department. /S.

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FO 371 / 61805

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5. We are further informed that the Greek Consul in Rome, a certain KOEN, is assisting the organization implicated in the ~~the~~ proposed attempt to embark Jews on ~~the~~ the "VRISSE". We would be grateful if you ^{would} investigate the alleged complicity of KOEN.

Yours ever
Eastern Department

10 May 1941

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OUT FILE

166

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(E 3538/48/31).

5th May, 1947.

SECRET

IMMEDIATE

Dear Chancery,

Please refer to your telegram No. 756 in which you reported that the Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had complained that the inadequacy of the Italian Police Force made proper surveillance of Jewish illegal movements impossible. In these circumstances it might perhaps be of assistance if the Italian authorities' attention were to be directed towards certain specific areas which are thought to be used for the traffic.

2. We have received information from a confidential source that camps maintained for Jewish immigrants at the following places are suspected on very good grounds of being staging or embarkation posts for illegal immigrants: Bari, Brindisi, Ostia, and Cinnioitta near Civita Vecchia.

3. No doubt the existence of these camps is already well known to you and to the Italian authorities but a particularly close watch upon movements in them and the adjacent posts might perhaps hinder the illegal organisations' plans for the summer months.

4. The Italian authorities might also be urged, if you have not already done so to place under surveillance the ship "Vrissi" (ex Lady Vagrant) of 440 G.R.T. which is at present lying in Genoa Harbour under the Italian flag. This ship was recently sold to an Italian named Ravano, a colleague of D'Andria, and is strongly suspected of being destined for the illegal traffic.

5. We are further informed that the Greek Consul in Rome, a certain Koen, is implicated in the proposed attempt to embark Jews on the "Vrissi". We would be grateful if you would investigate the alleged complicity of Koen.

Yours ever,
EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Rome.

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Class *371*

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1947

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E 3553
30 APR 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E3558/48/31
FROM Embassy
No. Washington
Dated 4103/178/47
Received in Registry 23 April 1947
30

Illegal Immigration Italy.
Transmit copy of minute re Jewish D.P.
in Italy, by R.W. Jackson, who had
spoken to Colonel Dalgren re approach made
by Min of State to General Gale on subject
of illegal immigration from Italy of D.P.
receiving U.N.R.R.A. help.

Last Paper.

35-49

(Minutes.)

References.

See E3247 and action
Refugee Dept. Ms Edward Warner
10 May 3

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed)

(Index.)

[Signatures]

Next Paper.

35-61

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61805

E 3558

4103/158/47

168

30 APR

23rd April, 1947

E

Forwarded with the Compliments

of the British Embassy,

Washington, D. C.

GENERAL ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT.

(Copy of Minute re Jewish Displaced Persons.)

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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Reference:

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169
Ref: 4103/194/47

MINUTE SHEET

Mr. Bromley

I have spoken to Colonel Katzin regarding the approach made by the Minister of State to General Gale in London in the matter of illegal immigration from Italy of displaced persons receiving UNRRA help. He said that when he was in Italy in October and November of last year he had found that the position regarding Jewish displaced persons was unsatisfactory. The camps in Southern Italy from where apparently any illegal immigration would take place, were not camps in the proper sense of the word but consisted of villages which had been taken over by the military authorities for this purpose and eventually handed over to UNRRA. The Jews moved about a good deal in the area and were not subject to control; indeed UNRRA personnel had found it impossible even to keep proper records of the movement of displaced persons in and out of the camps and were always anticipating trouble with some physical danger to themselves. Colonel Katzin had even found that these displaced persons refused to work in the camps cleaning up the streets and houses and so forth in the manner in which displaced persons are required to work elsewhere, and that Mr. Keeney, head of the UNRRA Mission in Italy, had, because of possible political repercussions in the United States, not forced a work policy on them but had allowed Class 2 UNRRA personnel to be used for the sort of service work that normally displaced persons do in other areas.

Colonel Katzin was of the opinion that the Jews had objected to any labour requirements because this would have resulted in records being kept and suspected that this was tied to illegal immigration. He had accordingly ordered the withdrawal of Class 2 personnel and the imposition of record requirements on his own authority - a course of action in which he was confirmed by Mayor La Guardia on his return. He did not, however, find evidence that any of the voluntary groups were themselves engaged in clandestine encouragement of illegal immigration, and that if this is true at all, he believes it to be the work of a few individuals and would certainly be contrary to the policy of the Mission. He emphasized, however, that the impossibility of control made it very difficult to carry out effective preventive measure. He added that the only group voluntarily assisting UNRRA which might be regarded as likely to be acting to encourage illegal immigration was a group of Palestinian volunteers who had been recruited by the military authorities and had consequently been transferred to UNRRA when the military authorities relinquished displaced persons responsibility.

I told Colonel Katzin that I did not wish to take this up with him formally until I was more fully informed of the approach made to General Gale. Colonel Katzin emphasised to me that the information he was giving me was on a personal basis but he felt that if there was clear evidence that personnel under the Administration's control were engaged in illegal movement the Administration would be prepared to take steps for their removal. He was not prepared to judge whether it would be necessary for the Administration to go to the Central Committee for this purpose.

The foregoing is probably not worth reporting by telegram but if you agree I might send a copy of this minute to the Refugee Department while we are waiting for a reply to our last telegram.

RWJ:im

R. W. Jackling
18th April, 1947.

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Reference:

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Already entered *KE*

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

23rd April, 1947.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4103/157/47

Dear Edmonds

With reference to your telegram No. 3672 of April 16th and our telegram in reply, I enclose copy of a Minute written after I had had a conversation with Colonel Katzin which may be of interest to you.

Tommy
Robert Jackling
R. W. Jackling.

C. J. Edmonds, Esq., C.M.G.,
Refugee Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61805**

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E 3561

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PALESTINE

30 APR

Registry Number

E3561/48/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Paris

Dated

373.

Received in Registry

25, Apr 1947

30 - -

Illegal Immigration

Refer Paris tel 321 (E3480/48/31)

Transmits copy of note from M. Heitgen French obj of Foreign Affairs in reply to note from M. Stupp keeps on Mch 21.

Last Paper.

355-8

(Minutes.)

Copy to
M/S
15. Apr. 30

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Higham B.O.
Return M/S
✓ May 3

(Action completed.)

75M/11

(Index.)

10/1/47

Next Paper.

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No. 373 1

173 E

HIS Majesty's **Ambassador** at **Paris**
presents his compliments to **H.M.P.S. of S. for F.**
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned **A.**
documents.

British... **Embassy.**.....

..... **Paris.**.....

3480/47/71
..... **25th April**...., 1947....

Reference to previous correspondence:

Paris telegram 321 to Foreign Office of
Description of Enclosure. **25.4.47.**

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p>Copy of Note from M. Teitgen dated 24th April, 1947.</p>	<p>Illegal immigration to Palestine.</p> <div data-bbox="1142 1324 1545 1650" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p>E 3561</p> <p>30 APR</p> </div>

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175
END

Le Gouvernement français compte d'autre part faire effectuer, à bord des navires, appartenant à des nations non signataires de la Convention, les visites nécessaires. L'attention des Services français compétents a été spécialement appelée en vue des contrôles de sécurité nécessaires à bord des bâtiments "Archangelos", "President Warfield" et "Anal", actuellement dans le port de Marseille.

2° - Le Gouvernement français prescrit à tous les préfets de subordonner l'octroi du visa de sortie français sur passeport collectif à la vérification préalable par le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et les Ambassades et Légations intéressées, de l'authenticité des visas d'entrée dans les pays d'accueil, des étrangers qui désirent quitter le territoire français à destination de ces pays d'accueil.

3° - Avant d'examiner l'application de dispositions relatives au refoulement des étrangers entrés illégalement en France, le Gouvernement français doit s'assurer que les pays sur le territoire desquels ces étrangers résidaient, sont disposés à les accueillir à nouveau. Cette disposition vise tout spécialement les zones occidentales de l'Allemagne et de l'Autriche dans lesquelles les immigrants clandestins en Palestine résidaient pour la plupart avant leur entrée en France.

A cet égard, le Gouvernement français serait désireux de recevoir du Gouvernement britannique la garantie que le Commandement de la zone anglaise d'Allemagne sera disposé à accueillir les immigrants dont il s'agit.

Une démarche analogue est effectuée auprès du Gouvernement américain. De leur côté, les Commandements des zones françaises d'Allemagne et d'Autriche seront saisis de la question.

Le Gouvernement français ne doute pas que la mise en application des dispositions qui précèdent ne soit de nature à éviter le retour des incidents signalés dans la note britannique du 21 mars.

Il souhaiterait qu'à cette occasion, le Gouvernement britannique assurât l'application du contingent d'immigration en Palestine dans des conditions permettant aux étrangers, actuellement résidant dans les zones d'Allemagne et d'Autriche, de bénéficier de visas proportionnellement à l'effectif des candidats à l'émigration dans chacune des zones considérées.

Je tiens à signaler, en terminant, à Votre Excellence, que les dispositions ci-dessus indiquées seront appliquées à tous les étrangers en France sans aucune discrimination, de race, de langue ou de religion./.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

(signé) T.J. Teitgen.

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